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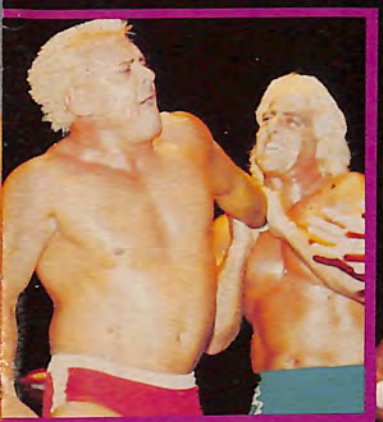
ANIMAL & HAWK: THE "IRON MEN" OF WRESTLING



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THE CONFUSING WORLD OF PAUL ORNDORFF

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The bottom line from the top rope of WME's Empire State Building offices.

Photo by Ed Powers

Editor Steve Pfeffer thinks that Rock n' Roll has a perminent place in wrestling. Robert Gibson agrees.

What's in a song? What does pro wrestling have to do with the music business? Think of any well publicized grapplers with tons of fans following their every move. Now think of their theme songs. The Road Warriors have Black Sabbath's "Iron Man", The Rock n' Roll Express have ELO's "Rock n' Roll is King", Dusty has "You can't judge a book by its cover" and I'm not even going to mention all the WWF stars, who all have their own songs. Let's face it, Vince McMahon knows how to sell his wrestlers.

The Rock n' Roll Connection has died down in the media's eye as of late, but in reality it's going on stronger than ever.

"Piledriver", the new release by the WWF, has broken into the top 100 on the Billboard charts in record time. Jim Crockett is throwing around the idea of compiling his own album for sale (great idea!). With such talent as the Rock n' Rollers headlining the disc it should become real popular. Rhino Records have a bunch of good releases under their label including Jesse Ventura's "The Body Rules", Fred Blassie's "Pencil Neck Geek" and Adrian Street's brand of music.

As far as wrestlers in the recording business go, the only ones with any kind of future seem to be Street and Morton. These two can fall back upon a music career after their grappling years. Many people might disagree with me on this point, but I feel that R&R has a place inside the squared circle. Where else can fans listen to a song, get themselves pumped up and then release that energy cheering on their favorite ring technicians? As for music videos, nothing adds to the velocity of a song like good old rasslin'.

It turns out rulebreakers with a catchy song and a good look can get as many fans as the law abiding citizens of the mat world. Look at the New Breed: their Beastie Boy anthem has captured many fans. Also, don't think the Warriors' theme didn't turn on mental fans around the globe. In fact, as soon as "I am Iron Man" blared out over the loudspeakers the fans jumped to their feet. Even though the music accompanies a "bad guy", it captures the imagination of the people in attendance.

The only thing that promoters have to watch out for is this. The wrestling action must stand up on its own, and the songs mustn't end up being the whole thing. Not in a show of any quality.

As long as we have men like the Rock n' Roll Express and Warriors that can back up their flamboyancy in the ring, the Rock n' Wrestling Connection will live a long and healthy life.

* * * * *

The Road Warriors' career seems to be moving in high gear toward nowhere. The fault doesn't fall on the shoulders of their manager extraordinaire Ellering; it belongs to the NWA. The Crockett promotion hasn't given them any decent tag matches lately, and it's a crying shame. Instead of having all these singles matches against World Champion Flair (every wrestler's dream), they should be getting the tag-team matches they deserve. Individually, Animal and Hawk have the ability to defeat any singles grappler in the business. As the old saying goes, any wrestler can be beaten at any time. This goes for Ric Flair as well. Just think what it would do to the Legion of Doom if either of the Warriors toppled the big man for the title! It would create a rift in the organization a mile wide. And personally, I don't want to see the greatest team in the history of wrestling destroyed.

STEVE PFEFFER

LETTERS
To The Editor

WHAT HAPPENED TO TOM ZENK?

In regards to the Can-Am Connection, all that we have heard is that Tom Zenk has "out of the clear blue sky, up and quit". I find this hard to believe, why would someone with a promising and rising career quit like that. Possible there was some type of wage war or personality conflict. I really believe that the public would like to know just what happened.

If it was a wage dispute, I feel that someone made a costly mistake. Rick Martel adn Tom Zenk are good separately but together they are spectacular. Even if Martel gets another partner, it will not be the same. People already know the Connection as Martel and Zenk, any other combination will not be as popular, it never works that way in anything.

Bottom line—I would like to know what happened to Tom Zenk and why.

G. Yount
North Royalton, OH

The departure of Tom Zenk from the folds of wrestling is cloudy at best. The Can/Am's had the brightest future of any team since the Road Warriors or the Bulldogs. New partner Tito Santana just won't be the same.

Photos by John Barrett and Cathy Dixson

Lately Hercules has yet to go against Champion Hulk Hogan for some well deserved re-matches.

SEXY HERCULES!

We want to reinforce the great article by Schuerman on Hercules Hernandez. While Schuermann is a very perceptive writer, he had incredibly fine material in Hercules.

Unfortunately, Schuermann couldn't represent a female's point of view. We find Hercules sexy, sexy, sexy with his rugged good looks, powerful body, and his bried tights (keep wearing them smaller, Hercules, we love every inch of your body!).

How about an article on how Hercules saw Schuermann's article on him?

Roberta Stan
Frances Bellman
Candy Prolent
Roanoke, VA

GREATEST CHAMP EVER

Hulk Hogan is the greatest Champ ever! I'd like to see the sissy Ric Flair take on Andre the Giant, Bundy or Killer Kahn. Hulk is number one!!! I want to see Hulk wrestle Flair in a 60 minute match, Hulk would win hands down.

Matt Ambrose
Hawthorne, NJ

LOOKING FOR HELP

I am writing to you that maybe with your magazine and others you could get together and push for a merger between the WWF and NWA.

It seems like these two federations are getting a lot of new wrestlers from the UWF. I think that if those federations could merge, the wrestling fans all over the country could see better shows than the stuff we've been getting at MSG lately and at the Meadowlands.

The only way I can see the wrestlers from the NWA, when I can't see them on

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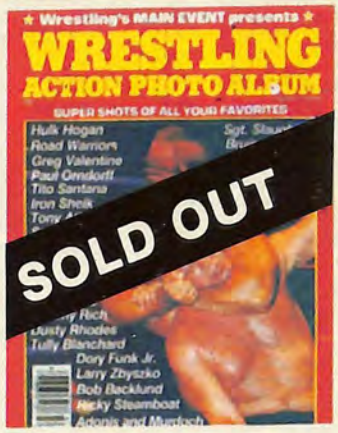

PHOTO ACTION ALBUM 2

WME's PHOTO ACTION ALBUM 2. The second volume of what is destined to be a classic series of wrestling publications. Another thrilled packed action photo album of the greatest stars of the squared circle in all their brutal glory. Many of your favorite stars are depicted on every page.

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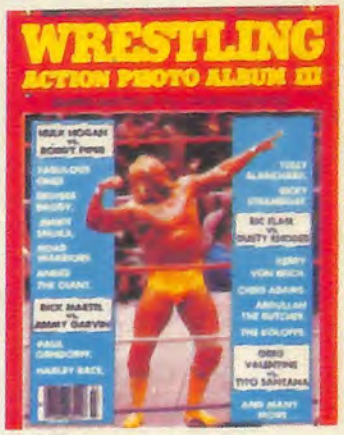
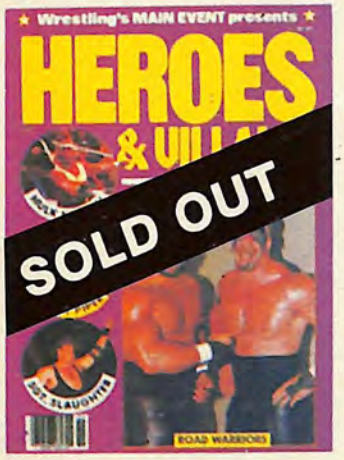


PHOTO ACTION ALBUM III

WME's PHOTO ACTION ALBUM III is the third in the trilogy of these exciting pictoral publications. As in albums one and two, this magazine concentrates on capturing the leading mat-stars of today in the act of mortal combat, and our top-notch photography is high-lighted by our bold full-page format.



HEROES AND VILLAINS

HEROES AND VILLAINS is WME's way of presenting our readers with a magazine strung cover to cover with close-up portraits of some of the most popular stars of the Squared Circle, along with some of the most despised, all neatly cropped on our trademark high gloss paper and suitable for framing. Don't be the last one on your block to have these great pictures hanging on *your* wall!

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TV (because I'm not at home), is if I go to Phila, Georgia or the Carolina's. Being I can't afford the trip, I am stuck with some of the garbage the WWF has been putting on lately.

Seymore Bedell, NY

HORSEMEN RULE

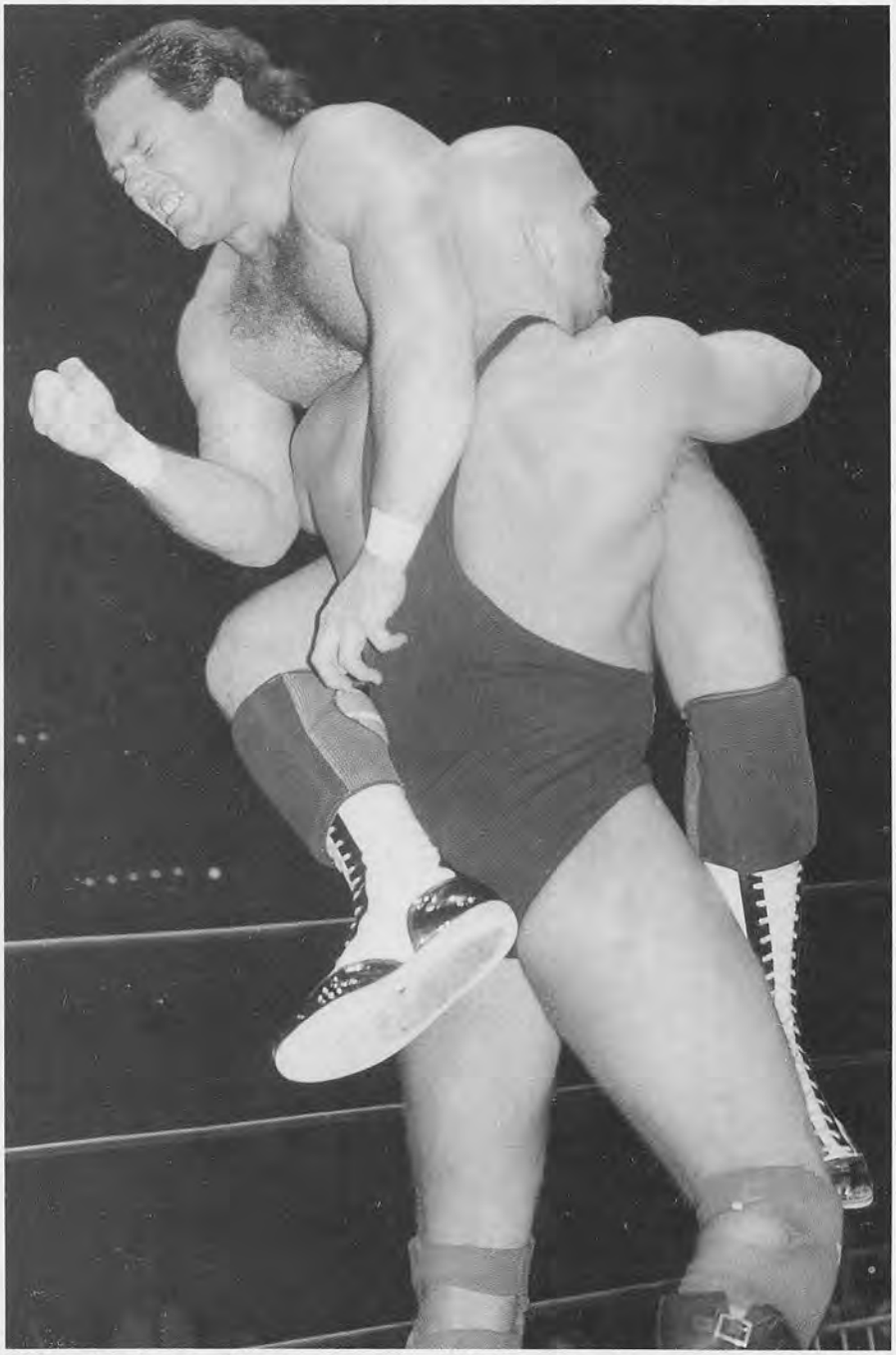
I am writing about the Four Horsemen. First there is Ric Flair the NWA World Champion, then Tully Blanchard the TV. Champion, Lex Luger the US Champion and Arn Anderson. In the future Tully and Arn should defeat the Rock n' Roll Express for the Tag-Team belts. Then every Horsemen will have a belt. I would like to see more features on the Horsemen.

Rich Rosner
Coolspring, PA

REDIS-COVERED

Thanks to Cable TV and your fine magazine I've rediscovered Pro Wrestling. I was an avid mat fan back in the late 50's through the mid 60's, then with my Military service and marriage I kind of drifted away from wrestling. I do remember one wrestler who sticks out in my mind, a blond strutter who at the time claimed to be the master of the Figure Four leglock, he was called the "Nature Boy", of course I'm referring to former NWA and WWF World Champion Buddy Rogers. We still have Sheiks and Brusiers, Valentines, Cowboys and Indians, and yes we still have a "Nature Boy" or two.

Larry Joiner
Poterville, CA



Nikita has beaten Blanchard for the TV Championship. Can this be the fall of the Horsemen?

SAVAGE BACK ON TOP

I think you have a great magazine and I read it very month. One thing I saw (or should I say I didn't see) was in the Sept. '87 issue.

In your official Wrestling Ratings were one of the best wrestlers in the WWF. Who else but the "Macho Man" Randy Savage. He's not in the top twenty, and not even in the WWF top ten. Give me a break! you mean to tell me that Paul Orndorff and the big fat One Man Gang are in the top ten and no Savage.

Keep up the great work—put Savage back in the top ten.

PS. Why is Mike Rotunda number two in Florida and he lost to Dory Funk? If it weren't for the "Animal", "Macho Man" would still be Intercontinental Champion.

Rick Michaelsen, IL

MORE ON LASER-TRON

Laser-Tron is right now the NWA Jr. World Heavyweight Champion. He has a good future in store. He has teamed with Jimmy Valiant, it has its good points. Jimmy Valiant is a well known wrestler, but the bad point is that Jimmy is very old. I still think that they have a great tag-team. Laser-Tron will someday hold the TV title or even the US title. He may eventually capture the Heavyweight Crown! Laser-Tron has a very bright future.

Michael Haskins
Oxford, NC

Check out feature on Laser-Tron in this issues Spotlight.

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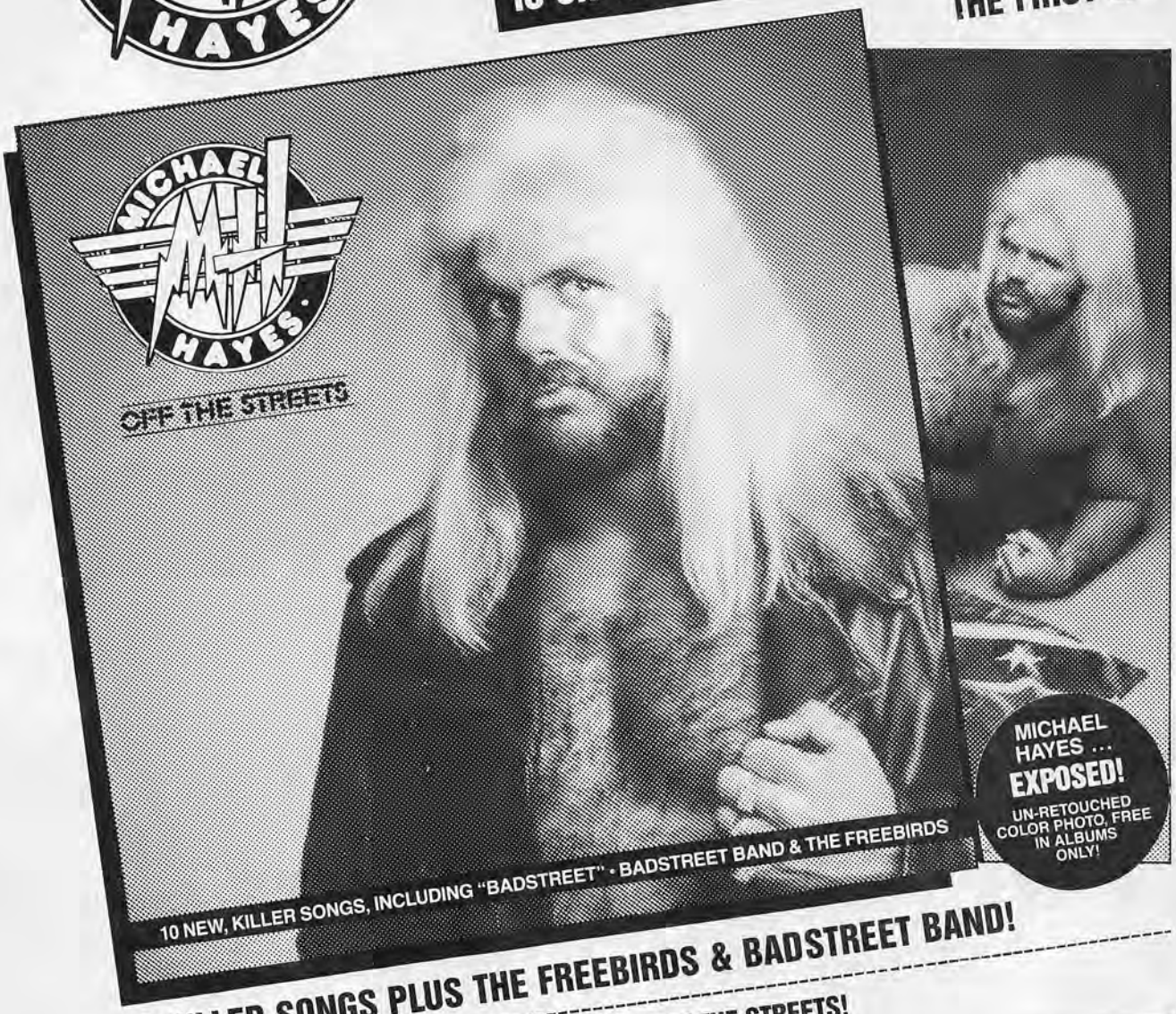

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THE HEART PUNCH

A no holds barred look at Professional Wrestling, straight from the heart!

I am going to bring the Road Warriors to New York! A few weeks ago Precious Paul Ellering, the manager of the Legion of Doom made a dumb statement. He said on TV, "With me the Warriors have conquered the world! They have accomplished everything in wrestling. We have been number one in the World for four years straight. World Champions in Japan and World Champions in the AWA." My response to that is: Paul, I respect you in many ways, you are a great manager and have proven in the past that you also are a good wrestler. Your team was the best up until a short while ago. But pal, what happened? Fans put on the TV, and no Road Warriors. Something is wrong. The people were hungry for you and you're not there. Ox Baker says you made a mistake! You had the Very best and let it slip away.

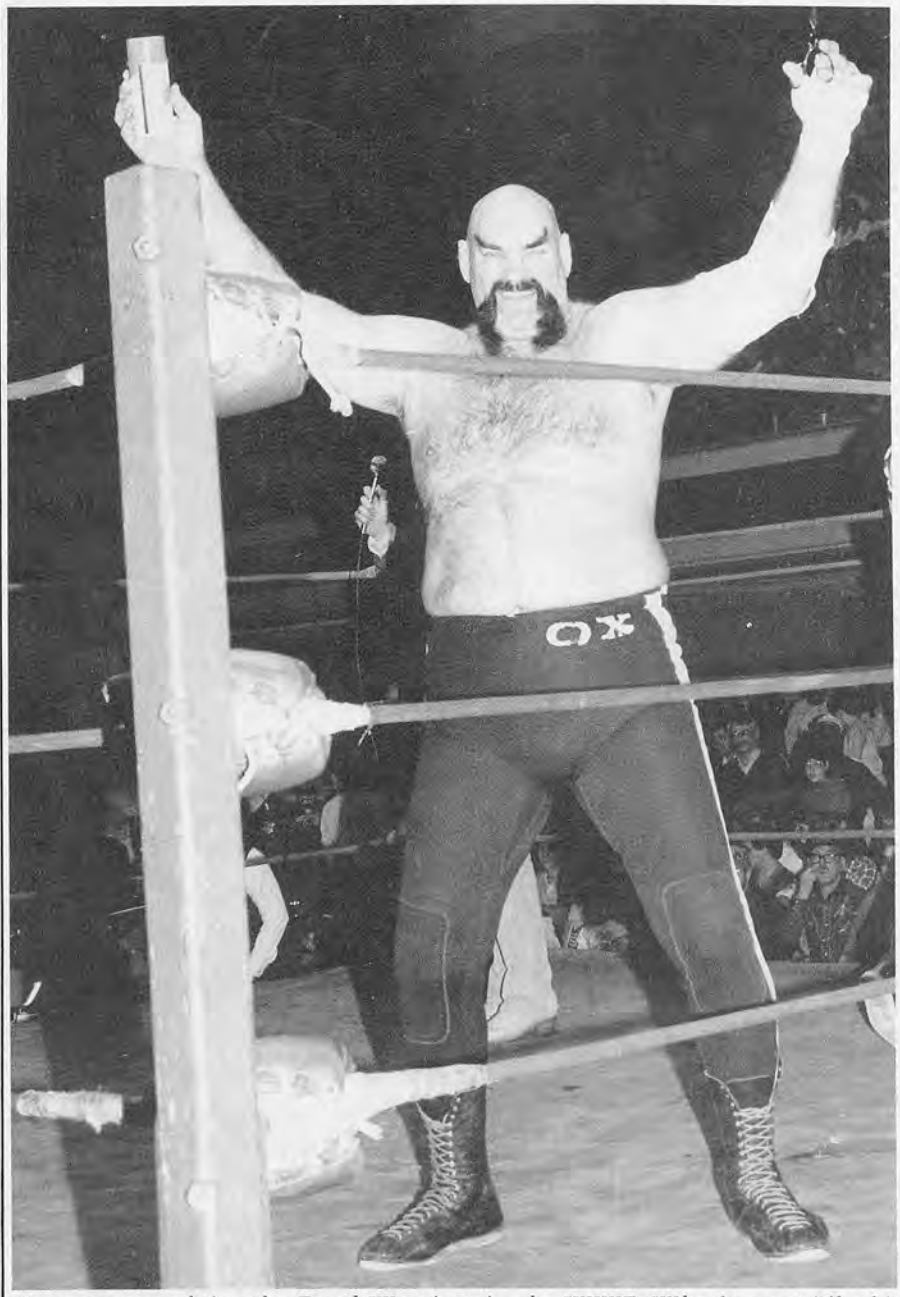

Photo by Paul Stratoti

Ox wants to advise the Road Warriors in the WWF. Who knows? The big man has lots of experience under his belt.

Vince wanted you so bad that they brought in Demolition. Damn it! That makes me so mad! A few months ago, I put out a challenge to Hogan... no answer. Now I'm making a challenge for you Warriors! Yes, let Ox bring the Animal and Hawk to the WWF, and let them show their stuff on TV. I can be your personal advisor, not manager because I don't want Paul left out in the cold. Let this team wrestle the best Vince has to offer and if they get beat anywhere, anyplace or anytime I will burn my trunks. Burn my trunks never to step into the ring again.

Didn't a weak team of Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal beat the guys because of outside interferance for their World title. Stick with me and anybody that shows their face at ringside will get laid down but good by my Heart Punch. Can't you people out there picture Jimmy Hart with his megaphone shoved up his behind cringing from the pain of the Heart Punch? In case of some six man tag matches I'll step into the ring myself to keep order in the ring. As for any other teams around, my punch will work just as well against fat slobs like Bundy, One Man Gang or Andre. Andre has already felt the power of the Punch. Just ask him. I bet he would even be scared to face the awesome power behind The Legion of Doom and Ox Baker.

You know I might even show Animal and Hawk how the Heart Punch works, imagine that in their arsenal. If a whimp like Brian Adias can put men in the hospital with his Oriental Tool (Heart Punch) what kind of trouble will the Warriors cause?

I don't want to be a great manager or advisor. No, I just want everybody to know that you can't copy greatness. WHAM!!! Can your heart stand it! ■

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CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO? IS HUMPERDINK ANOTHER

Notes from the underground of the WWF. . .

Sir Oliver Humperdink fills an immense power void with his immense lard. As any wrestling fan of the last quarter-century knows, he's no Lou Albano, though the comparisons are obvious. The beautiful thing about it is that Humperdink, an even worse strategist than the eternally overrated Albano, sparkles with larceny even when he's putting on a sincere act. Hump doesn't know how to lie, unlike most of these other babyface converts who feed upon gullible fans. I don't think his act is gonna wash—he's like Presidents Johnson and Nixon, you can just visualize him crossing his fingers and toes when he's talking.

One of Vince McMahon's most endearing traits is his infantilism. No, that *is* his most endearing trait, as it is in so many adults. The man who once characterized The Iron Sheik's greatest weapon in the ring as "halitosis" opened a recent broadcast of *Superstars of Wrestling* with a cheery Chamber of Commerce-style plug for Madison, Wisconsin as the "Diary Captial of the World". Why? To draw an analogy between Madison's cheese factories and the cheese between Virgil's toes. Virgil is, of course, the chauffeur/enforcer in Ted DiBiase's life, and in Episode Seven of "The Magic Ring Christian" a fan nibbled Virgil's feet for two Ben Franklins. I recollect a past *TNT* that featured an oil massage of Don Muraco. "You're going to *massage his feet?"* cried an incredulous Vince. "Just think of all that *toe cheese!"* Junior is an absolute class act when he revels in bodily filth. He'd hire the Garbage Pail Kids as guest timekeepers for WrestleMania IV no doubt.

More kudos go out to Vince for rescuing Sheri Martell from the ESPN ratings. These kudos are conditional, to be sure. McMahon's callous dumping of the extremely popular and brilliant Wendi Richter was one of the low points of the Titan Age, and Sensational Sheri is a riskier commerical proposition as a rule-breaker. But Sheri deserves a true shot at greatness. . .

Photo by Bill Otten

Sir Oliver has made his presence known in the WWF. He's making plenty of enemies on the way up.

Bam Bam Bigelow, whose first professional match took place in a makeshift ring at the New York disco Studio 54, won't live up to the hype of his *NBC Sportsworld* appearance. Humperdink's the loser there. ■

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☐ **VOLUME 13** Mad Dog Buzz Sawyer in a chain match against Hacksaw Duggan. This one is wild and vicious. The unpredictable Dick Slater hooks up with Jake "The Snake" Roberts in a supercharged match that keeps the crowd screaming and guessing.

☐ **VOLUME 14** Ted DiBiase and Bob Sweetan get it on as soon as the introductions are done. In and out of the ring it is war as chairs become weapons. Isn't Adrian sweet? Don't let the pig-tails, nylons and make-up fool you. Terry Taylor isn't fooled as these two show you what wrestling is all about.

☐ **VOLUME 15** Kamala The Ugandan Giant stomps on Hacksaw Duggan but that is not the end of this match! The Bruise Brothers and the Sheepherders hook up in a tag war. Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Humongous let it all out in a cage match. There is no escape.

☐ **VOLUME 16** Butch Reed and Dick Slater in a non disqualification match that is bloody, vicious and pure mayhem. Nothing gets in their way, not even the rules!

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WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP

A monthly report on all the latest happenings in the world of Professional Wrestling . . .

GRAHAM AND KEIRN WIN FLORIDA TAG-TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP!

Steve Keirn and Mike Graham have fought long and hard for respect their whole careers. Steve Keirn in particular had to regain the fans approval once he left the Fabulous Ones, when partner Stan Lane joined forces with Jim Cornette, leaving him an outcast in the wrestling world. Now, Keirn has a solid friendship with Graham that has turned into a solid partnership in the ring. They fought their way up the Florida tag-team ratings and finally won the prestigious title. Later on they were beaten by the Kiwi Sheepherders in a decisive victory that left Mike Graham wondering if he shouldn't just quit the sport. Encouraged by Keirn not to give up, they fought their way back into contention, earning each and every title shot as never before. Finally the fateful day came in the Bayfront Center on August 21st. They unseated the rough and tough Sheepherders for the Championship in an exciting bout that left both teams exhausted. The *new* Champions had crawled their way back to the top, to a position in the rankings which shows that hard work and determination pay off. ■

Mike Graham and Steve Keirn walked away with the Florida straps after their victory over the Sheepherders.

ANDRE THE GIANT IS BACK IN THE WWF

After all the hoopla over Wrestlemania IV, and that big victory for Hulk Hogan over the "Eighth Wonder of the World", the smoke is beginning to clear, revealing that the Hulksters' troubles aren't over. Sometimes a match is hyped up so much that fans start to think of it as "the one and only" match of the century. This was the case with the Hogan/Andre confrontation at the Silverdome this year. For some strange reason everybody thought the Giant would retire after the match. Not so. Even at the end of the evening, when the port-a-car was bringing an exhausted Andre and a tearful "Brain" back to the crevices of the Dome, you could sense that the war had only begun.

Now, after a good five months of inactivity, the big man is back. It was a big mistake for Andre to step into the ring with Hogan in March. The man (?) could hardly move, much less get up off the mat, thereby making it easy for him to be pinned. Now, the Giant made a guest appearance on a recent Madison Square Garden show. The ring announcer announced Andre to the crowd, and he started to walk toward the ring. But he stopped when he heard the disapproving reception, gave the crowd a dissatisfied look, turned and left the arena.

The Giant decides the fate of the WWF.

Just as before, when he was campaigning for his battle with the Hulkster, he's not uttering a word, letting Bobby Heenan do his talking for him. There's one difference though, and that's the aura that the big man is emitting. Facing Hogan was a stone faced mountain who just ignored his former fans; now a little emotion can be seen in his hard features. Emotion that tells the story of a man considering his future; wondering if, when he finally retires, he wants to be hated by millions of little children who once looked up to him as a hero.

The way it looks now, the situation can go either way. If Andre embraces the fans once again and dumps the "Brain", the Heenan family is in deep trouble. But if Andre still feels the championship calling him, Hogan might be at the center of World War 3, World War 4... until he falls. The ball is in the Giant's court now: he decides the fate of the WWF. ■

Photos by Bill Otten and Ed Powers

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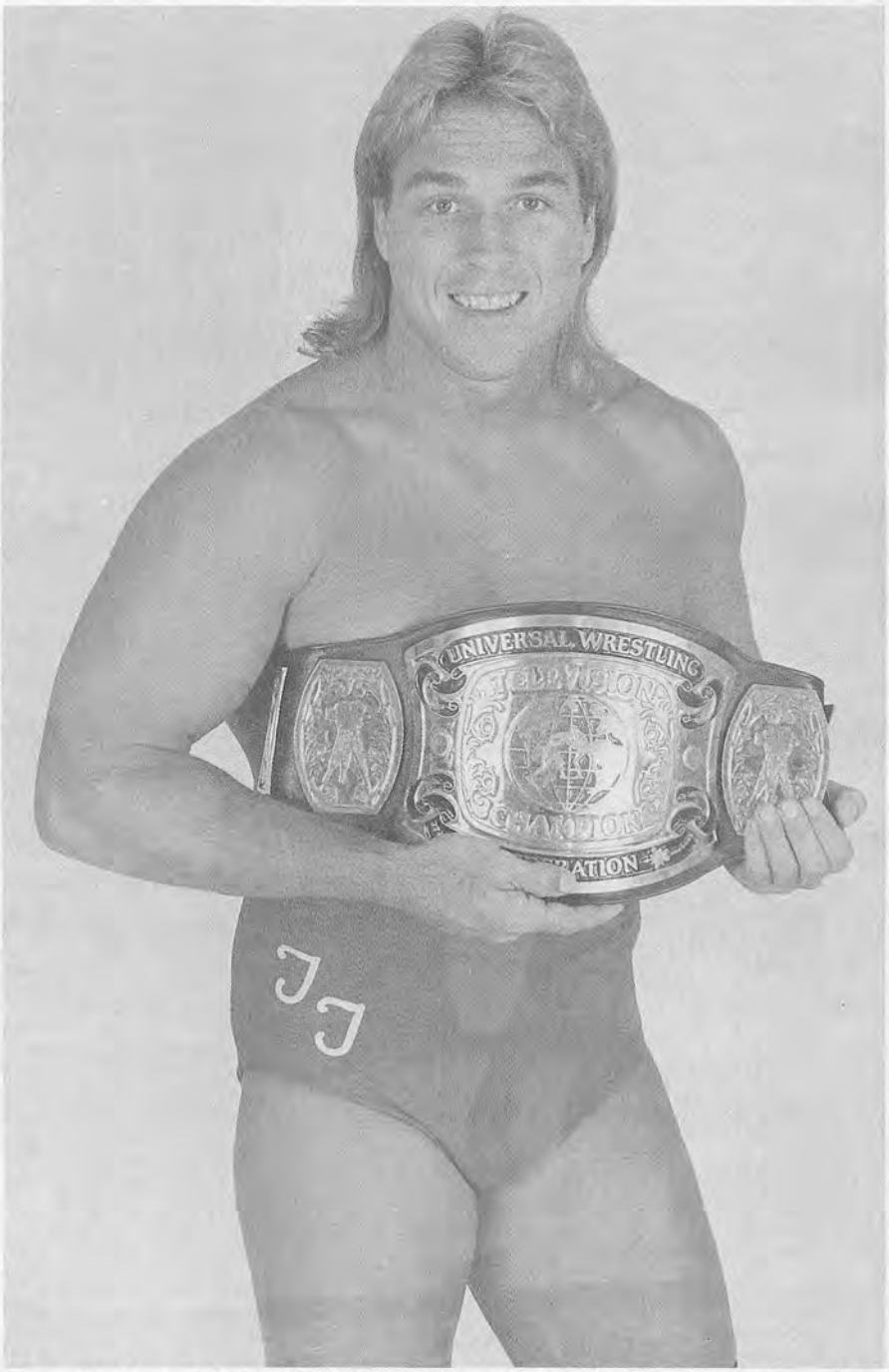
TV TITLE UNIFICATION IN SIGHT

There are a lot of Champions in the wrestling world. You have your World Champions, Your Intercontinental titliests, your US Champions and of course the TV Champions. At one time or another all these titles tried to merge, thereby combining organizations and creating a unified champion. Bob Blacklund had a few matches against Ric Flair in order to unify the WWF and NWA, and AWA Champ Nick Bockwinkle had his matches against Harley Race to unify the two organizations. Now, since the NWA and UWF are getting closer and closer to becoming *one* promotion and titles are floating around like bees to honey, they want to have one unified TV Champion. Terry Taylor and Nikita Koloff are the respective Champions of their divisions, the UWF and NWA TV Champions. On a recent installment of World Wide Wrestling Terry challenged Nikita to a match to decide the *true* champion; "Nikita! You think you're so tough, walking around with your chains and all, beating everybody in sight. Well look at me. I'm right here. You call yourself the *only* TV Champion, the *only* man able to hold onto that title. Well I'm also a TV Champion and more than a match for you. Come to think of it, I'm more of a man than you are or ever have been.", he sounded so confident sitting next to his buddy "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbet, laying down all these threats. "Let's sign a match right now for the unification, one match to decide once and for all who the true champion is."

Nikita was very calm, cool and collected in his reply; "Comrade. I'm right here if you want a match. Right here if you want to fight. I don't like you being called the TV Champion, I the only Champion." The fans chanting "Nikita! Nikita! Nikita!" know that to be true. Dusty Rhodes knows that to be true, Barry Windham knows that to be true, Road Warriors know that to be true, Ric Flair knows that to be true, that why you no get shots against him. I get all the shots."

The match is most likely going to be scheduled for the Starcade show in October. It will be very interesting to see how the changed attitudes of both men reflect their ring tactics. The much smaller Taylor will have to rely on speed to combat the mighty muscle of Nikita. One thing is for sure, only one man will emerge with a Championship belt when the winner's hand is raised in victory. ■



Terry Taylor and Nikita Koloff are going to clash sometime soon to unify the TV Championships. Terry may be one of the shortest lived champions in UWF history.

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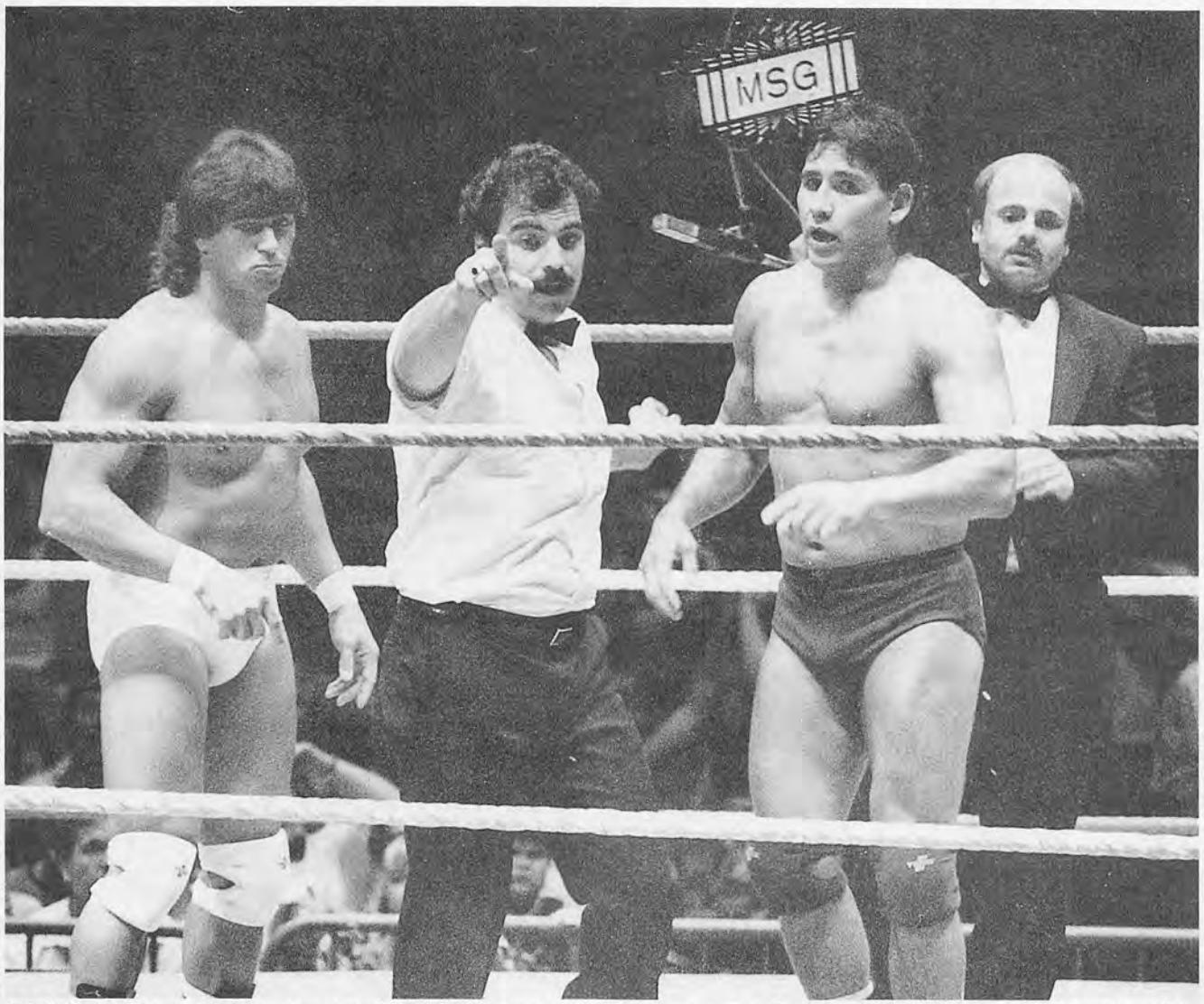
Next year the World Wrestling Federation will expand Wrestlemania from a one-day event to a festival lasting several days. It is scheduled to begin on March 27 and is expected to include a WWF press luncheon featuring WWF personalities and celebrities. There's also talk that wrestlers and fans will participate in a special 10 kilometer run for charity, a picnic and a sponsors' party. Can anyone picture Andre the Giant crossing the finish line at all? All right, so maybe he won't run, but he will definitely be involved in the event...

A recent big shocker in the WWF: Sir Oliver Humperdink has snuck around everybody in the Federation and secured Bam Bam's contract. The teaming of Bam Bam and Orndorff is a great move. Both are awesome, and they work great together...

Randy Savage seems to be the experts' pick for New Intercontinental Champion. This would put him right up there with Muraco, Santana and Morales in the elite group that's held the title twice...

Tito Santana, the fiery Mexican, has joined forces with Rick Martel to form a new version of the Can/Am Connection called Strike Force. The Force is getting all the Championship title matches originally scheduled for Martel and Zenk. If they should pull off some sort of upset and beat the Hart Foundation for the Championship there'll be many angry voices in the WWF. Every last tag team passed up for their shots at the belts will want to get revenge, and that includes the British Bulldogs. The Bulldogs desperately want to hold the title once again; fans, don't be surprised if they change their tactics in order to secure shots against the newly formed team...

Chavo Guererro has entered the WWF



Photos by John Barrett and Cathy Dixson

Rick Martel and his new partner Tito Santana are hot in contention for the WWF tag-team Championship.

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but is already getting lost in the shuffle. The same can be said for the Dingo Warrior, who wrestles under the Federation's banner mainly in Texas. The grappler could have a fan following on the East Coast if he ever gets up here. "Stretcher" Jack Hart is also in Vince's organization, but he's going under the name Bob Horowitz for some strange reason...

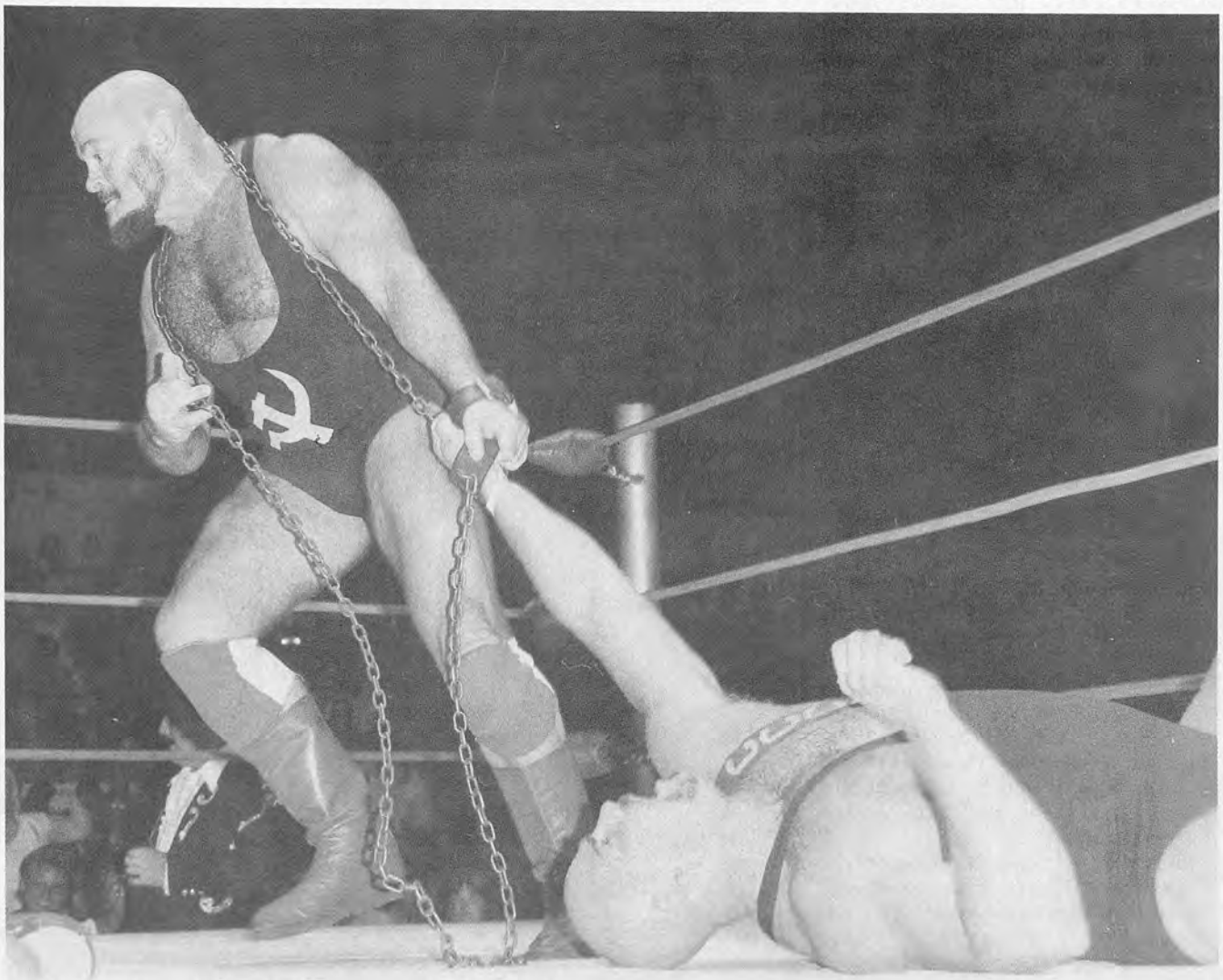
Nikita Koloff is the new NWA World TV Champion, having beaten Tully Blanchard for the belt on August 18th in North Carolina. This is a mighty blow against the Four Horsemen. One title has escaped their grasp. Can the rest be far behind?..

As far as World Champion Ric Flair goes, you can say what you want about his tactics but he remains true to form and still controls the screen. Last year Dusty Rhodes became the Champion for a short while, beating Slick Ric by a fluke during the Great American Bash. This year Ric's toughest challenges have come from "Hands of Stone" Ron Garvin, who happens to be the man everybody is saying will be the next Champion...

Tully Blanchard's losing his title may be considered a blessing: this way both he and Arn Anderson can spend all their time tracking down the Rock n' Roll Express. The Horsemen have moved into the top contenders' spot for the tag team Championship and have been giving the Rock n' Rollers some very tough matches...

Barry Windham and Ron Garvin have proved themselves capable championship material as a team, and they have moved into the Number One contenders' spot for the US tag belts held by the Midnight Express...

Dory Funk still thinks he's the Florida Heavyweight Champion and has kept the



Ivan drags his nephew across the ring in a Russian Chain Match. The Russian Bear has challenged all comers and is looking for a championship belt.

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belt hidden from authorities. What does he have to say for himself? "I've been hearing people say that I have the Florida belt and it's not mine. Believe me, I have it and I'm proud of it. In Florida I pinned Mike Rotunda's shoulders to the mat for a count of three, and that makes me the Champ fair and square. Not Rotunda, the NWA or anybody is going to take it away from me."

Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner, the Lightning Express, say the newly formed tag team of "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert and Terry Taylor will get no championship title shots until they beat a team with some credentials...

On a WTBS telecast after a Chris Adams bout, Terry Taylor (who got a surprising standing ovation from the crowd on hand) leaped into the ring and attacked Adams. The melee went on for a few minutes until Chris chased him out of the ring...

Belts are being stolen all around the United States. The most recent incident occurred in the UWF, when Big Bubba and Skandor Akbar attacked UWF World Titleholder Steve Dr. Death and took his belt back to the locker rooms with them...

Dick Murdock, once hailed as a patriot, can no longer make that claim. In a match on Power Pro Wrestling the turncoat took an American flag from ringside, broke off the stick and used it to pummel his opponent. How could a man who loves his country disgrace the symbol of America that way?...

Skandar Akbar's Terminator is turning into a prominent force and a very dangerous opponent to get in the ring with. Lately he has busted open all three Freebirds with his claw hold, in which he inserts some sort of foreign object into his glove...

Remember Jack Hart's infamous record of 0-100? Well, a new champion of losses has been crowned (by everybody he steps into the ring with, that is). His name is Mike Boyette, and he has a current record of 0-111. Talk about being famous for your mistakes...

Steve Cox won the UWF Rookie of the Year Honors. The young man was trained by Steve Williams himself. During the Awards presentation, Jerry Young jumped into the ring in drag and attacked the rookie, stealing his trophy in the process...

Arn Anderson has made his singles goal known: he wants Barry Windham's Western States Championship...

Road Warrior Animal is getting over an eye injury caused during the Great American Bash. No word on how long he'll be out of action...

In the World Class area, Percy Pringle has offered $500 to any man who can drag

Formally Jack "the Stretcher" Hart, Bob Horrowitz is competing in the WWF.

Paul E. Dangerously with his fantastic combination of the "Original" Midnight Express.

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"strong man" Ted Arcidi across the ring in a tug of war. So far the Spoiler has been unsuccessful in his attempts, but I don't think Pringle would turn over the money even if he did win...

Last issue it was reported that Al Perez won the Texas Championship from "Superman" Tony Atlas. Not so. Sorry. When the Dingo Warrior departed from the WCWA he vacated his Texas title. Through a series of title matches latin heart-throb Al Perez was crowned the new champion...

Tony Atlas is one half of the reborn Texas Tag Team Champions along with his partner Sweet Brown Sugar. Sugar and Atlas were named champions to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Texas World Class strap...

Larry Zbyszko is signed up for his title matches against Hennig. Both say it's going to be a scientific series...

Paul E. Dangerously—the rookie manager who made a big name for himself when he, Austin Idol and "Wildfire" Tommy Rich shaved Jerry Lawler's head in Memphis, Tennessee—has emerged as the top manager in the AWA. Not only have his "Original" Midnight Express (Loverboy Dennis and Ravishing Randy) been named the Number One contenders for the AWA Tag team Championship; he has also scored a major coup by bringing the Adorable Adrian Adonis back into the spotlight. "This is only the beginning," the 22-year-old Dangerously boasted. "By the time your magazine hits the newsstands, either Adonis will be the Heavyweight champion, or the Midnight Express will hold the tag team titles! Who knows, maybe both will happen by then."...

Paul E. is also responsible for bringing the "Adorable One" back into the spotlight.

As of press time, Dangerously has refused to comment on the "other" Midnight Express managed by Jim Cornette. He has also refused to comment on the status of his friendship with Tommy Rich now a fan favorite in the AWA...

That's it front ringside this month. See you at the matches... ■

The Rock n' Roll Express have been getting stiff challenges from Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard.

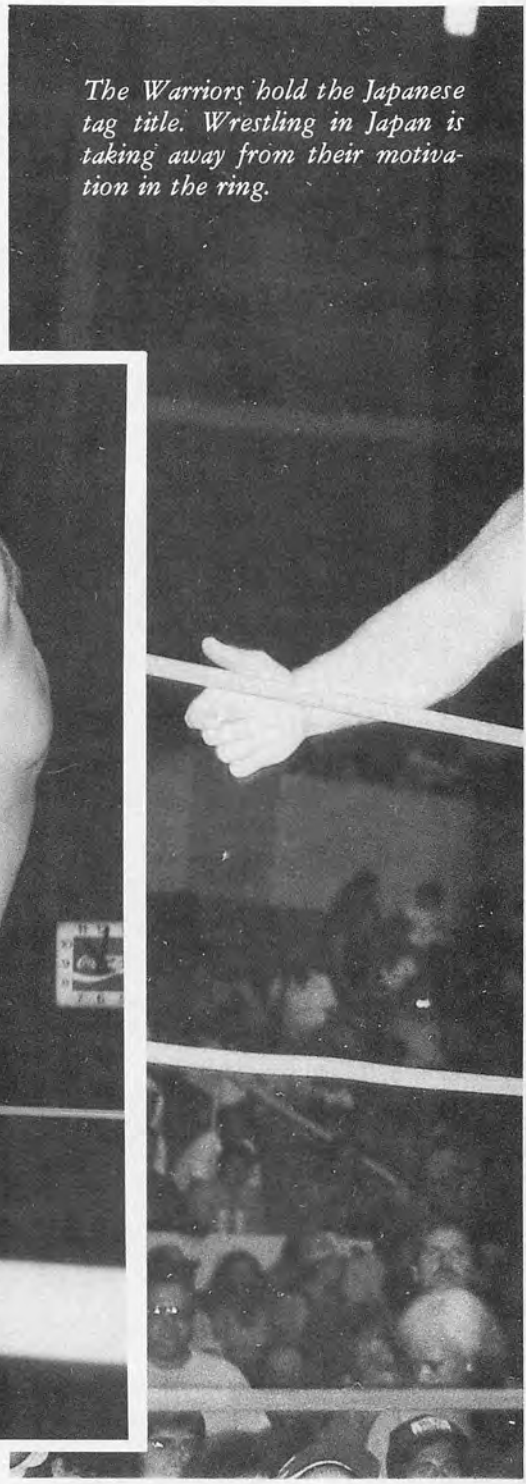
ANIMAL & HAWK: THE IRON MEN OF WRESTLING

CAN THEY REGAIN THEIR FORMER GLORY?

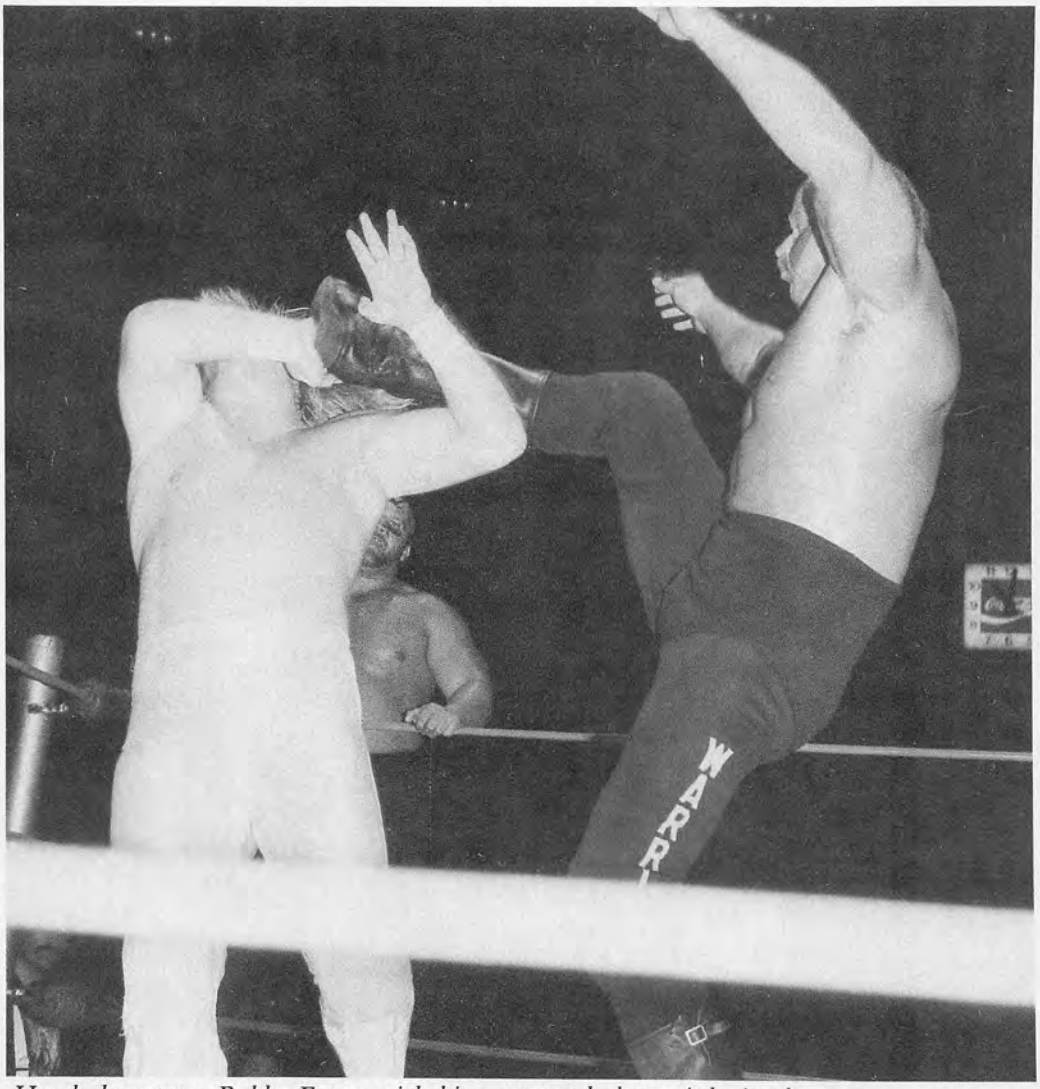
By CLINT "STAR" FREEMAN

Since they first appeared on the scene in the early 1980's, Hawk and Animal, the mighty Road Warriors, have epitomized the dominance of strength over skill in tag team competition, and wrestling in general. Along with their brainy manager "Precious" Paul Ellering, the Warriors have lent a new look to tag action, from power-packed physiques and trick-or-treat make-up to butch leather outfits and monsyllabic, threat filled interviews.

Yet despite their profound influence on modern-day musclemen such as Lex Luger and Billy Jack Haynes, the Road Warriors have not owned a major tag team title in over two years. They seem stuck as special attractions in the NWA, bereft of the hatred which used to



The Warriors hold the Japanese tag title. Wrestling in Japan is taking away from their motivation in the ring.



Photos by Bill Otten

Hawk devastates Bobby Eaton with his motorcycle boot right in the mug.

Being the greatest tag-team in the history of wrestling has made the Warriors soft. They have lived on their fame for long enough, it's time for them to regain their past glory by becoming World Champions. Recently turning down an offer to head out to the WWF, it may prove to be the biggest mistake of their careers.

motivate them. The Warriors have refused to supplement their rough-house tactics with even rudimentary scientific moves, remaining in a caveman style quickly transcended by latterday heroes like Luger or Nikita Koloff. While the Warrior's aggressive stance and crude power still make them intimidating foes, Luger and Koloff have soared to heights of science and strength unseen since the mid-sixties heyday of Bruno Sammartino.

The Road Warriors first took the nation by storm in 1982, blasting off from superstation WTBS' satellite on Georgia Championship Wrestling. Fans had never seen such a menacing team, adorned in the black leather vests and pants of their native Chicago's motorcycle gangs. With

Former World Tag-team Champions Animal and Hawk always stand fully behind their manager Precious Paul. The WWF wanted the Warriors but not their manager extrodonaire.

their flawless physiques and nightmarish painted faces, the Warriors were like a splash of freezing water on a calm southern morning. The lusty, relentless way the Warriors dismantled all comers was a cruelly beautiful sight to behold. The Warriors soon secured the National Tag Team belts, and with millions of speechless fans held enthralled, Hawk and Animal appeared well on their way to dominating the entire sport.

Next, the Warriors, rough and tumble sons of Chicago, found a home in the AWA's Mid-Western heartland, where the chill winters and simple folk welcomed their no-holds-barred violence. The Warriors recalled classic AWA combina-tions such as riot squad Bruiser and Crusher or those barroom brawlers the Blackjacks, much to the delight of veteran fans. The Warriors reigned as undisputed World Tag Champs atop the AWA pile, the perfect antidote to scrawny wimps like Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell.

Through 1984 and 1985, as big stars of Pro Wrestling USA, Hawk and Animal clobbered competition from state to state. This experiment allowed many fans their first live exposure to Hawk's skyscraper body slam, Animal's juggernaut body-block, and the pair's decapitating two-man clothesline. Ecstatic fans emulated their Halloween face paint, rough-hewn costumes and coarse speech patterns. But then the ill-fated promotion folded, and the AWA began the decline which has rendered it almost invisible today. The Warriors' future greatness, which had seemed assured, was suddenly less certain.

Even up to that point, however, Hawk and Animal's record was not spotless. The stubborn, independant attitude so apparent in interviews and in the ring hurt them among matchmakers. As early as their 1982 NWA campaign, promoters had complained about their ruthless tactics. The pair often showed no regard for an opponent's career, much less his health. In 1985, the Warriors were expelled from the AWA for a variety of reasons: their egocentric self-absorption, manager Ellering's grandiose monetary demands, and the brutal punishment they meted out in the ring. In an upset which still confounds, the glamour-boy combo of Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal—abetted by the nasty Freebirds—separated the Warriors from their hard-earned AWA tag belts. Thus the Road Warriors said goodbye, perhaps forever, to the AWA, and World Championship status.

For the last two years, the Road Warriors have been mercenary journeymen, netting big paydays and lots of frequent flyer miles, but few enduring accomplishments. Hawk and Animal often venture to Japan, seemingly content to crush tiny Oriental opponents, while slowly losing the hunger and purpose which made their reputation in the early days. What has gone wrong with this tag team, once hailed as the best ever? Why have the Warriors, still sitting atop most tag team ratings surveys, not fulfiled the promise which seemed their due five years ago?

Some of the blame must be shouldered by manager "Precious" Paul Ellering. Five years ago in Georgia, Ellering coordinated a devastating stable, the original Legion of Doom—Buzz Sawyer, King Kong Bundy, Jake Roberts. Today Ellering, with his rolled-up Wall Street Journal clenched in his hand seems a money-hungry third wheel on the Warriors' stalled bike. Instead of directing his musclebound charges in championship campaigns, Ellering sends his razor-shorn brutes to Japan, in search of new kabuki face motifs, plenty yen, and not much else.

In fact, in the fall of 1986 the severest blow since the AWA explusion was dealt the Warriors. Just weeks prior to Starcade, the biggest match of the year, Hawk broke his leg in Japan. As if the scaffold match against the Midnight Express at Starcade was not dangerous enough already, Hawk had to enter this perilous contest handicapped, too. It is a tribute to the Warriors courage—certainly not their intelligence—that they fought and won in every scaffold match against the Midnights, aided somewhat by Jim Cornette's cowardice and Loverboy Dennis' flagging vitality.

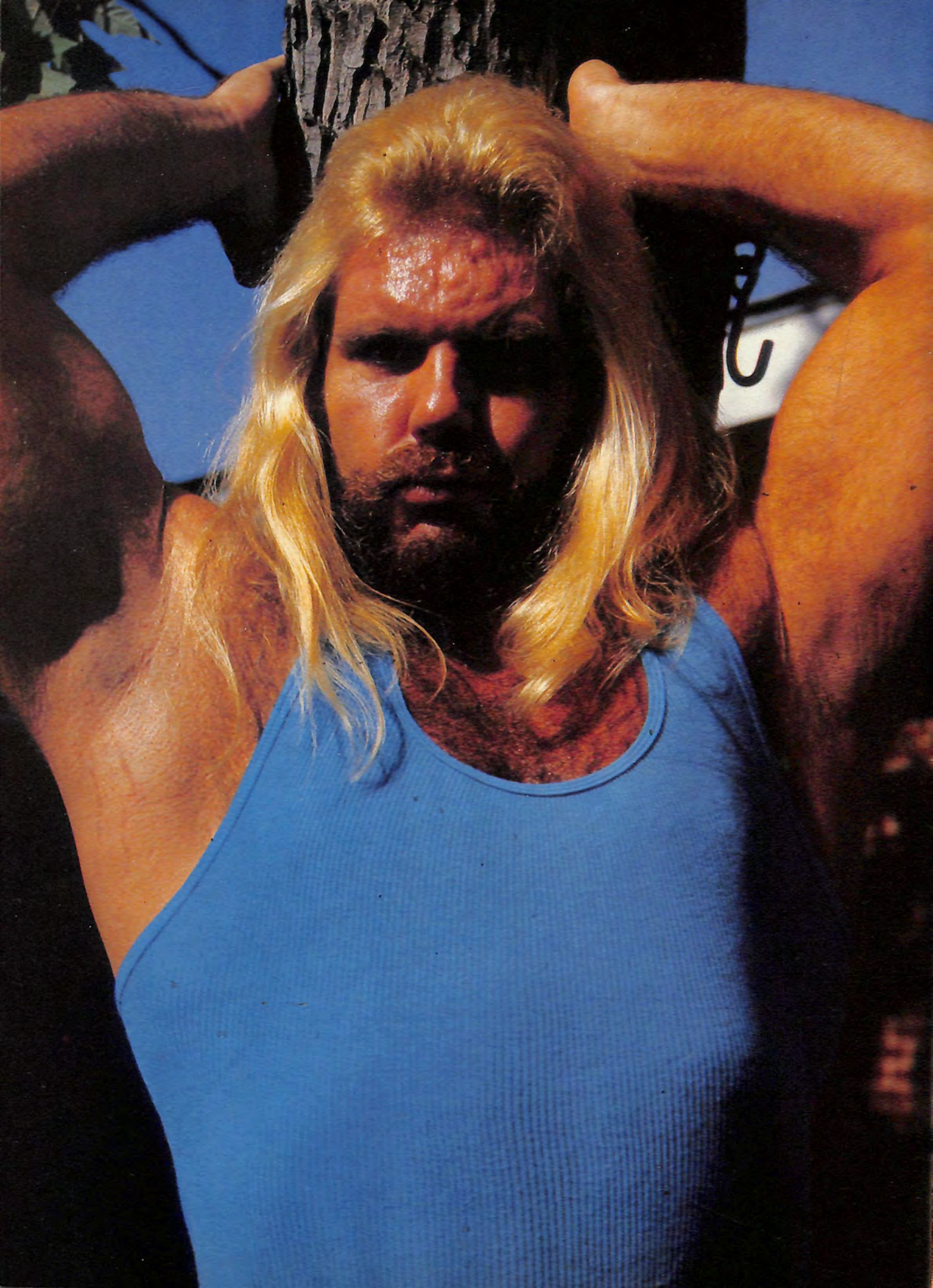
Today the Warriors are without a major feud to stoke their fires. Competing in the NWA, the Warriors are at the mercy of Jim Crockett, who securely nurtures his elfin tag champs the Rock and Roll Express. Until the Rock and Rolls' fans grow up—fat chance—the Warriors, it seems, will never get a shot at their belts. It is apparent to most observers that the Warriors could chop up the punky Rock and Rolls into so many itsy bitsy cutesy tiny pieces. But then all the Rock and Rolls' pre-pubescent followers would be crying into their pillows *at home*, unable to attend the local matches.

For all his reputed smarts, Ellering has not encouraged beastly Hawk or Animal to develop their mat skills. They still rely heavily on the vicious power moves and brutal double-teaming they defined five years ago. Even dull-witted muscleheads like Nikita or Hulk Hogan have added new holds to their repertoires, becoming ever more invincible.

Recently Ellering turned down a highly lucrative offer from the WWF, surely the ideal home for the Warriors. Supposedly a financial wiz, Ellering refused a yearly contract of at least a million dollars each for Hawk and Animal. The notoriety, exposure and wealth the Warriors would achieve in the WWF would surely surpass any they have yet accumulated. In the WWF, the Warriors' horrific, larger-than-life appearance would go over big time. Imagine the dough to be raked in by Warriors rubber dolls, body shirts, cartoon shows, etc.!

The sweetest justice of all would be the invitable showdown with carbon-copy tag team Demolition. Even a passing fan can spot Ax and Smash's Warrior-clone. The fans would love to see Hawk and Animal rip the heads off these imitators. Plus, Hawk and Animal must be mighty annoyed at Ax and Smash for copping their gimmick. How ironic that these lifeless phonies might be the ones to restore the Warriors' crippling killer instinct, absent for three years or more!

The Warriors are the Hulk Hogan of tag team wrestling, only more bloodthirsty. Should a deal be struck, the Warriors could dominate the WWF for as long as they wish. Sadly, we are forced to watch the Warriors languish in the NWA, growing old and lazy without a driving feud or major title. At this point in their career, it appears the Road Warriors, once held up as the most impressive tag team in wrestling history, are fated to be perennial disappointments. How tragic that the awesome Legion of Doom, who could rewrite tag team history for all time, are not delivering on the potential that their immense physiques and dreams promised. ■



DEVASTATION TAKES A WALK DOWN BADSTREET

Skandar Akbar calls all Americans weak and helpless. The Fabulous Freebirds have something to say about that, wrestling fans know that messing around with Michael Hayes and Co. you take a one way trip down Badstreet USA.

By JIM ARONSON

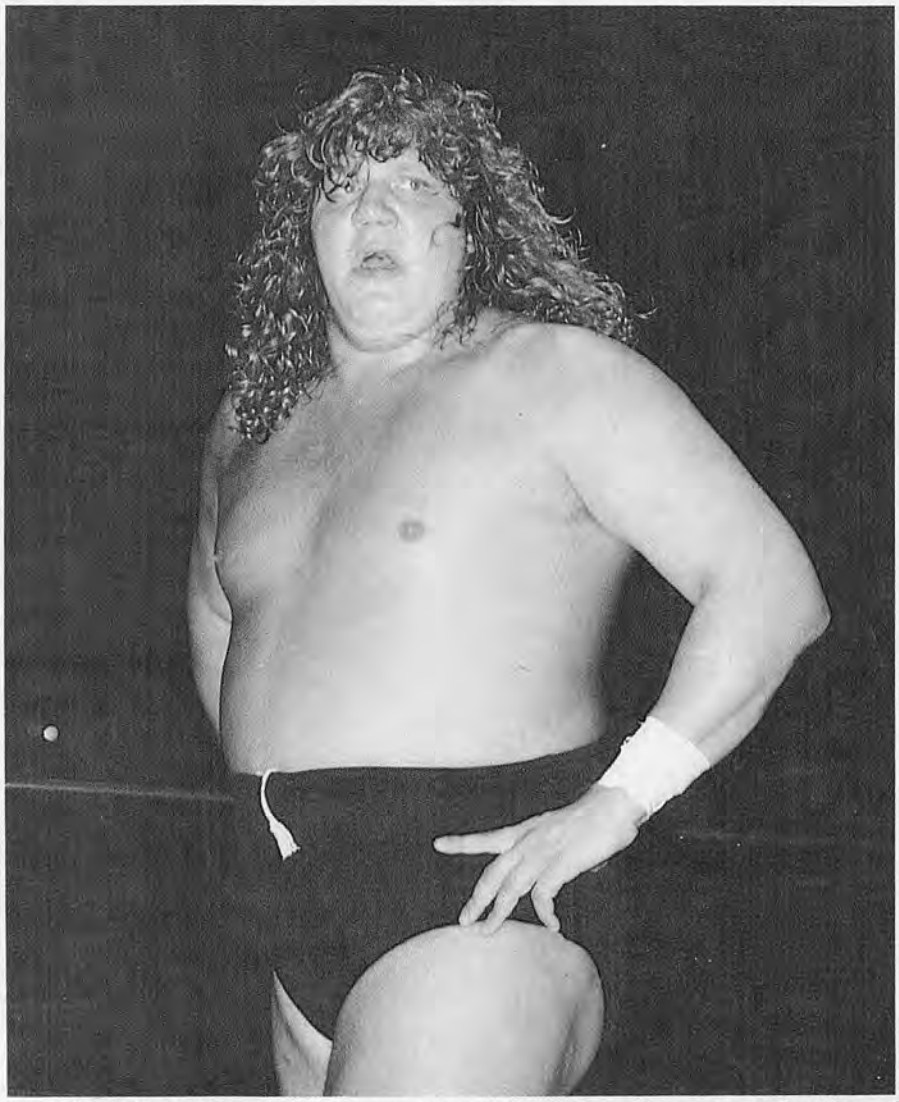
The Universal Wrestling Federation is renowned for bad tempers, bad feuds, and bad blood. It is also the home of Badstreet, USA.

Skandor Akbar is at the helm of Devastation, Inc. Akbar, manager of the last two UWF champions, has no love lost for the Freebirds. AKA Badstreet, USA. The Freebirds have even less love for Akbar. When two such awesome forces collide, it can only be a war—on the intersection of Devastation and Badstreet, USA.

Michael Hayes, Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy are united as "brothers," as the Freebirds. They are united in their goal to win titles. Kick butt and party. (Not necessarily in that order.) Hayes likes the women, Roberts the liquor, Gordy the butt-kicking. Everyone in their lifetime does something they regret. If the Freebirds have any regrets, it is the day they took on a fourth member of their family. Apparently Badstreet doesn't allow for adoption.

"Adopted" was The Angel of Death, a 300-lb-plus mountain of humanity. Hayes recalls the day he discovered the Angel: "I saw him in a bar one night, when I was tying one on. Me and Jack Daniels looked up, saw the bouncer, and a lightbulb went off in my head. This was the man I'd been looking for, my ace-in-the-hole."

Hayes figured that a fourth Freebird would clear any roadblocks for "Bam Bam" Gordy to regain his UWF title from One Man Gang. Gang, a member of Devastation, received the title by forfeit earlier in the year, when Gordy was re-



Bam Bam Terry Gordy stands ready to defend America against the likes of Skandar Akbar's Devistation Inc.

Photos by Stephen Beyer and Bill Otten

covering from a broken arm and couldn't wrestle. "He didn't beat me in the damn ring, and he doesn't deserve the damn title," said Gordy. The seeds were planted for a war; Hayes hoped the Angel would be the answer.

What Hayes didn't figure was that the only loyalty the Angel had was to the almighty dollar. On Badstreet, he was well paid, but the Freebirds didn't have the bankroll Akbar possessed. By the time the Angel made his debut, Akbar was readying his checkbook for an undercover deal.

Skandor Akbar has his eye on the Angel from the time he signed on with Freebirds. "I can spot great talent at first sight, while the boys from Bumstreet wouldn't know talent if it fell over them. Here was a man who was everything that embodied my organization—devastating."

Akbar's first move was to bring in a grappler called the Ninja. The Ninja was a journeyman, and nothing spectacular. Akbar admits the Ninja "was a pawn in my game to destroy the Freebirds.

Within a few weeks, Akbar had challenged Hayes to a match pitting his rookie, Ninja, against Hayes,' rookie, the Angel. What the Freebirds didn't know was the Angel had already been bought off by Akbar, prior to the match. As the grapplers entered the ring, Davastation, Inc. prepared for a back-stabbing.

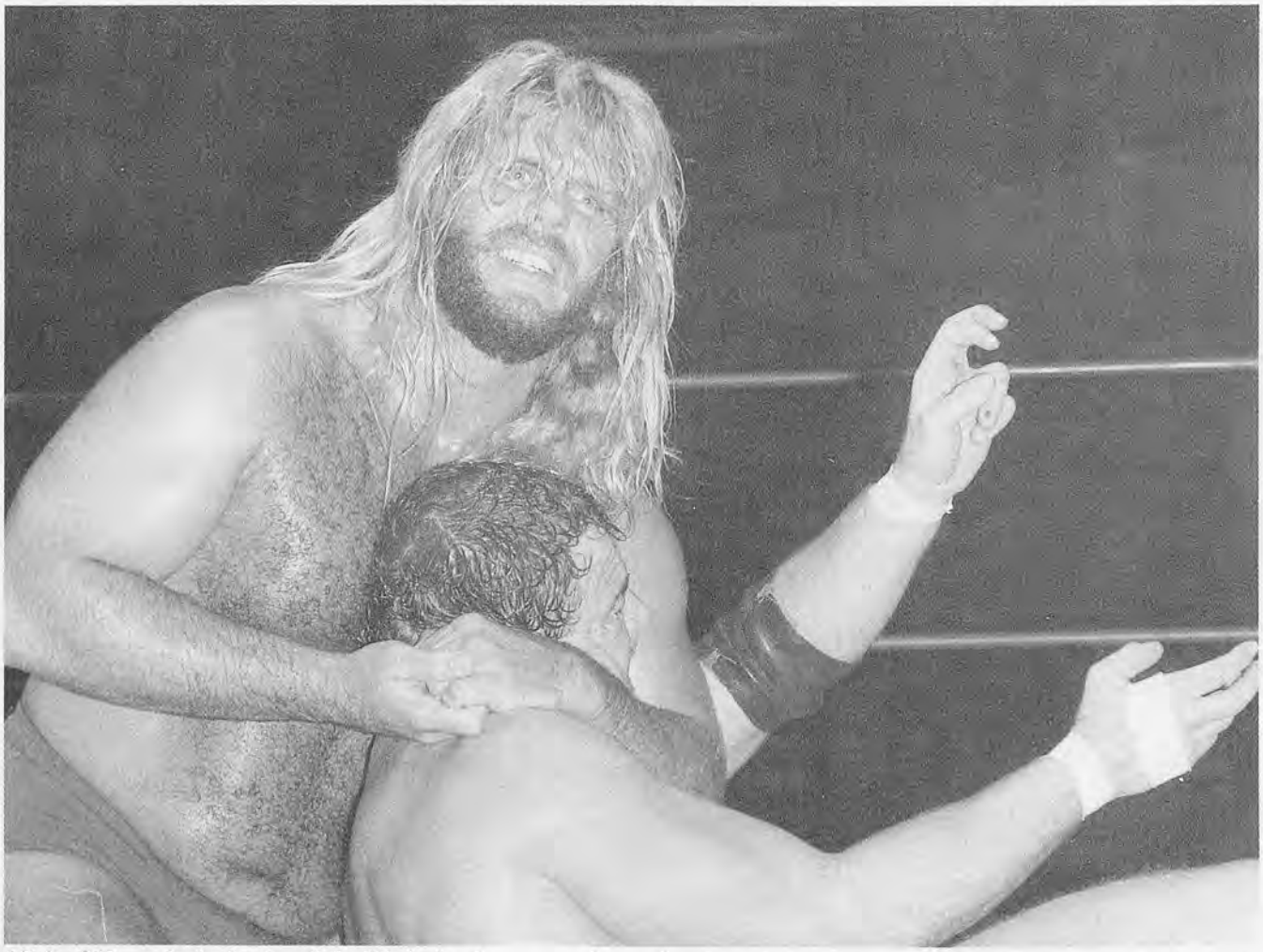
Now Akbar reflects and says, "Those Bumstreet idiots became over-confident, and who could blame them? They came to win, and should have. They figured the Angel would destroy someone, but they didn't suspect it would be Michael Hayes. Alas, when they went against me, they went against a superior wrestling mind."

"Alas, when they went against me, they went against a superior mind."

The plan was conceived by Akbar and worked without a hitch. Hayes arrived at the squared circle with the Angel, perparing for an easy victory and a night of wine and women. The Angel appeared to be ready for a fight with the Ninja, when in reality he was waiting for the signal to maul Michael Hayes. The bell hadn't yet rung, and already the Angel was all over Hayes! Hayes was less injured than shocked. Here was a man he had taken into his family, a man he had trusted and trained with daily, and now he was battling his young protege in an unscheduled match.

The shock of this traitorous act was too much of a surpise for Hayes, and he was left beaten and bloodied. Hayes' adopted brother was pulverising him, driven less by the training he has received than by the power of Akbar's cash. Devastation, Inc.'s members—Bill Irwin, Eli the Eliminator and One Man Gang—got into the act as well, each taking their shots at the prone Michael Hayes. As Gordy and Roberts headed for the ring, Akbar's men held them at bay until their dirty deed was done. When it was over, Devastation, Inc. left with their new member, Angel "Muhammad", and the Freebirds exited as they had entered: three warriors, although now one had to be carried out.

Months later, the battle between the two forces has barely cooled off. Akbar has learned that Badstreet is not an easy path to walk. Gone are the old members of Devastation: One Man Gang, Eli the Eliminator and Bill Irwin have gone their



Michael Hayes is the leader of the 'Birds, having years of wrestling knowledge in his arsenal Akbar better watch his back.

Hayes has proven his toughness in battles against UWF TV Champion Terry Taylor.

separate ways. The Angel of Death (Muhammad) is a distant memory. Like all wrestlers, Akbar used him for one purpose: to make money for himself. Once that purpose was completed, the Angel was tossed aside like all the rest of Akbar's former wrestlers. Devastation is now a shadow of its former self; memories remain, but recent happenings indicate more bad times for Akbar.

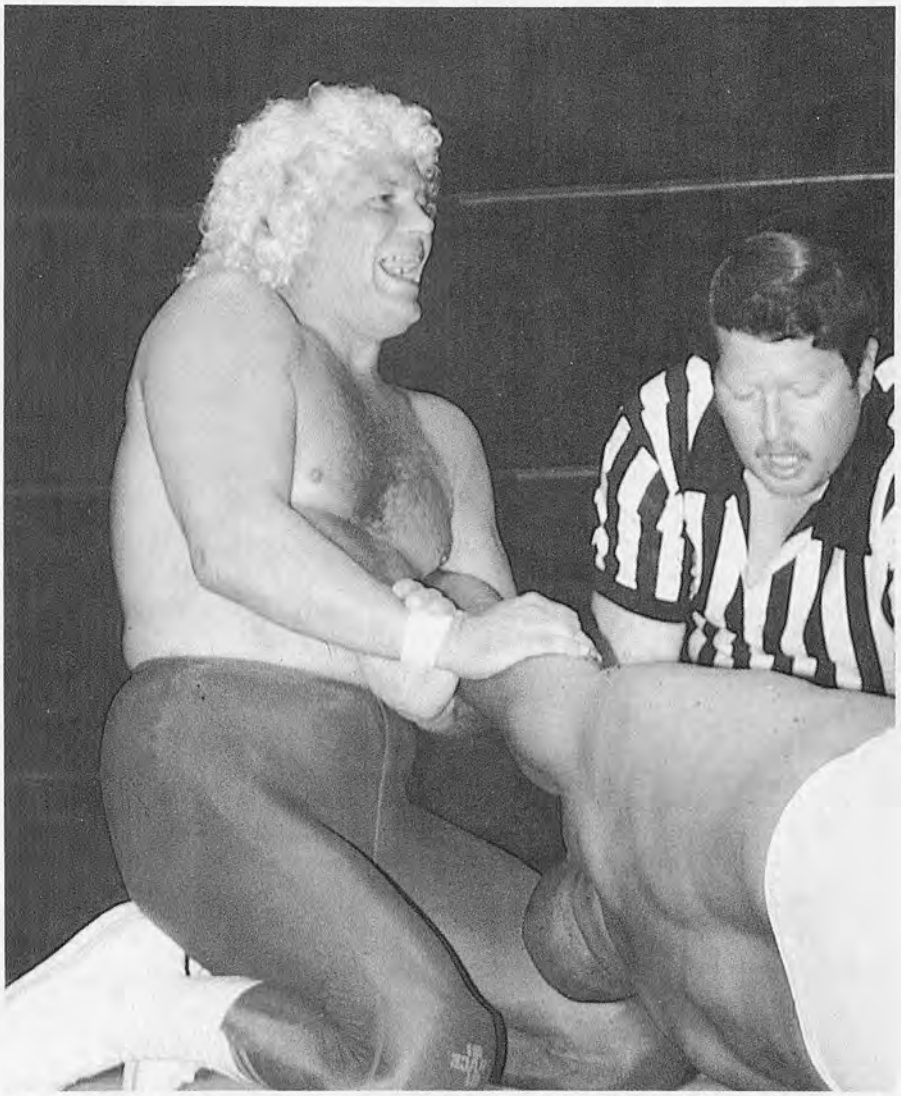
The UWF title has become an obsession for Akbar, and this may be his real downfall. Akbar must remember that after all the title matches, all the wrestlers like Steve "Dr. Death" Williams and Barry Windham, there still exists a place called Badstreet, USA, and it isn't easily forgotten.

There are still three members of a team who want Akbar's hide. The Freebirds are no strangers to feuds, and are willing to pass on title shots, parties and girls, if it means a shot at Akbar, or anyone connected with him.

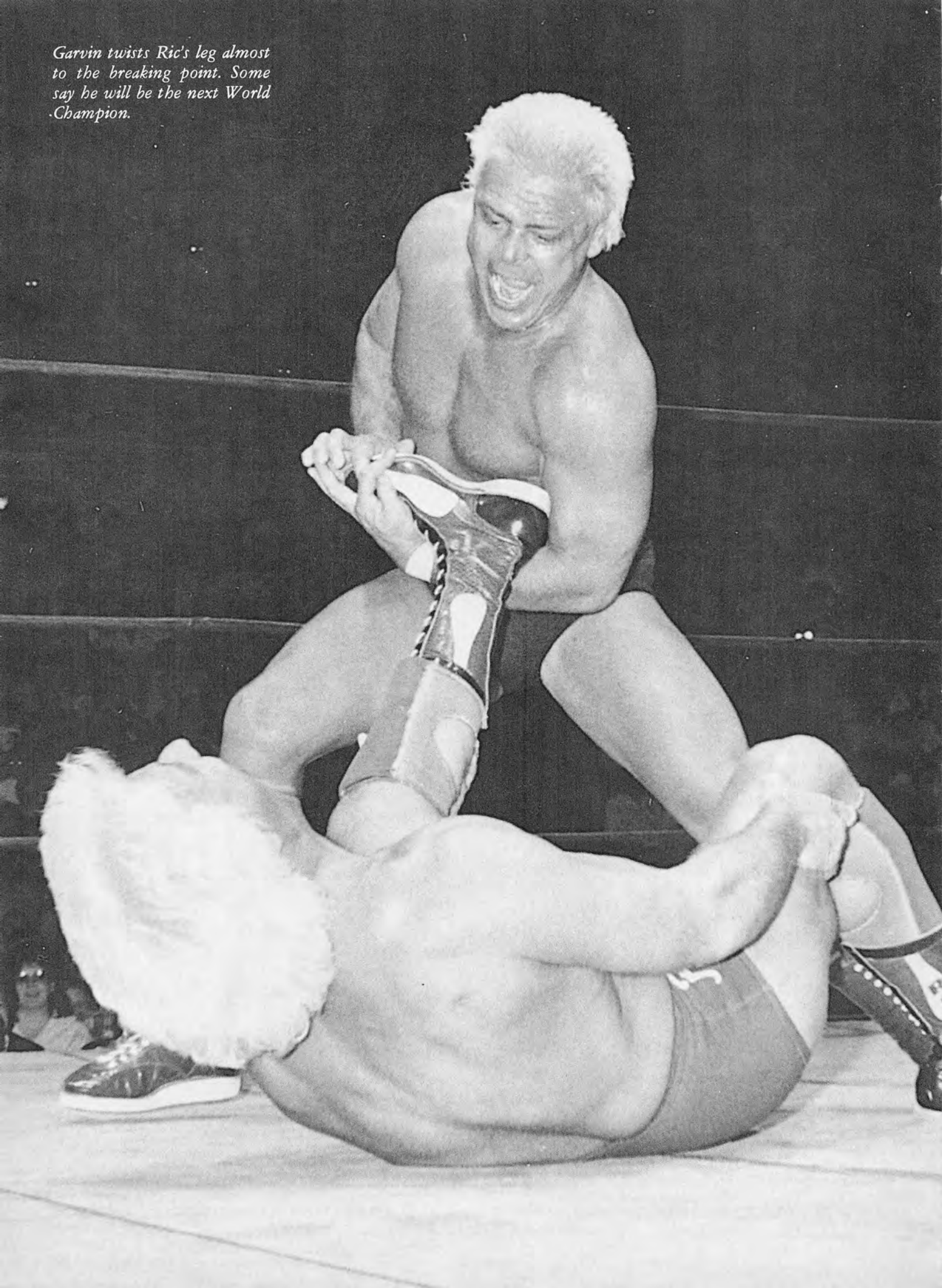
The pain runs deep for Michael Hayes, betrayed by a man he thought he could trust who was paid off by a men he had never liked. Says Hayes: "Akbar has his damn eyes on that damn title so much, he ain't watching his back. I don't reveal my plans, but real soon it'll be butt-kicking time!"

Akbar dismisses Hayes' threats as the words of a "washed-up American hippy." He says the Freebirds are "no longer considered a challenge."

Akbar and Devastation, Inc. Took a stroll down Badstreet and made it out alive. But this is one trip the Freebirds won't easily forget. Should Akbar take another walk down Badstreet, USA, next time he may find a dead end. ■



Buddy Roberts may not be as large as his partners, but when dishing out punishment he can be as generous as anybody.



Garvin twists Ric's leg almost to the breaking point. Some say he will be the next World Champion.

The "Nature Boy" had been driven over the edge as of late. Ric has always been known for his cool, calm, calculated attacks. Recently the Champion has been getting careless and making too many mistakes. Once he makes a serious error in judgement, misses a dropkick, fowls up the Figure-four leglock or gets too wound up in his emotions, Ron Garvin will be there to pick up the pieces.

RON GARVIN IS DRIVING RIC FLAIR CRAZY!

By STEVE PFEFFER

Is the champion of the world losing his mind? That's the question going through the heads of many wrestling fans lately. Usually calm, cool and collected, Slick Ric has been hysterical in interviews with the press and in his personal life. Women are afraid to go near the Champ for fear he's going to lay one on them, and wrestlers that would normally cry for championship matches are keeping quiet in spite of their goals. All except one man, that is: the man responsible for Ric's condition, a determined individual named Ron Garvin.

"I know I'm going over the edge!" shouted Flair "The championship stays around my waist no matter what! Nobody's gonna touch me unless they want the beating of their life! I'm not only gonna take those poor fools to school. They're going on a one way trip to Space Mountain! No return! Whooooh!"

Ron Garvin is the one who's calm, cool and collected in this scenario. "Hands of Stone" is looking straight ahead wearing blinders so he won't be distracted from his quest to reach the top. "A ride on Space Mountain, ha! Flair is falling, he's loosing control and that's what I want. I've worked too hard and too long not to be Champion. Ric Flair, say your prayers. The new champion is talking. All your fellow Horsemen are falling one by one, and you're next!"

The truth is he's right. Tully Blanchard has just lost his title, Lex Luger is avoiding Dusty Rhodes and J.J. Dillon is going day after day without a decent night's sleep.

Ric seems happy on the outside, but his inner tourment has been showing through.

Can Ric hold out against the pressure? "Nature Boy" has dominated the sport for the last six years, in which his greatest challenges have come from Dusty Rhodes, Harley Race, Kerry Von Erich and Ron Garvin. All of the above have pushed the Champ to the limit of his endurance, and all have beaten Flair for the World Title at least once, except Ron Garvin. "My time has come. I will be champion by the time this issue hits the newsstands. You thought you got the best of the Garvins when you hurt my brother Jimmy. As you know from the 'dream date's you didn't."

The "dream date" was the last nail in the coffin of Ric Flair. Garvin may be the last chapter of the fabulous tale "How I Conquered the Wrestling World". "He just doesn't care anymore," was one spectator's comment. "I've been a fan of his for many years, but now he's losing it. Garvin is better championship material anyway."

Having J.J. Dillon in his corner for his championship matches had become more important than ever to Ric. Once he could rely strictly on his skills in the squared circle against top contenders. Now it's a matter of survival. Every match has become a war, where only one man comes out with his sanity intact. A war in which Ronnie is winning. No, he didn't beat Flair for the gold as of yet. But he's getting closer and closer to running him out of the sport, closer to ending the career of the man who took wrestling to the heights it deserves. As far as pure post-scientific skill goes, Flair stands alone with nobody touching His Regalness.

Kingship is dead in this country of ours, but Ric comes as close to royalty as anybody. Who else takes a helicopter to the ring for a World Championship title defense? Who else comes to interviews so well dressed that the finest tailors in the

Photos by Cathy Dixson and Robert Riddick

WRESTLING'S
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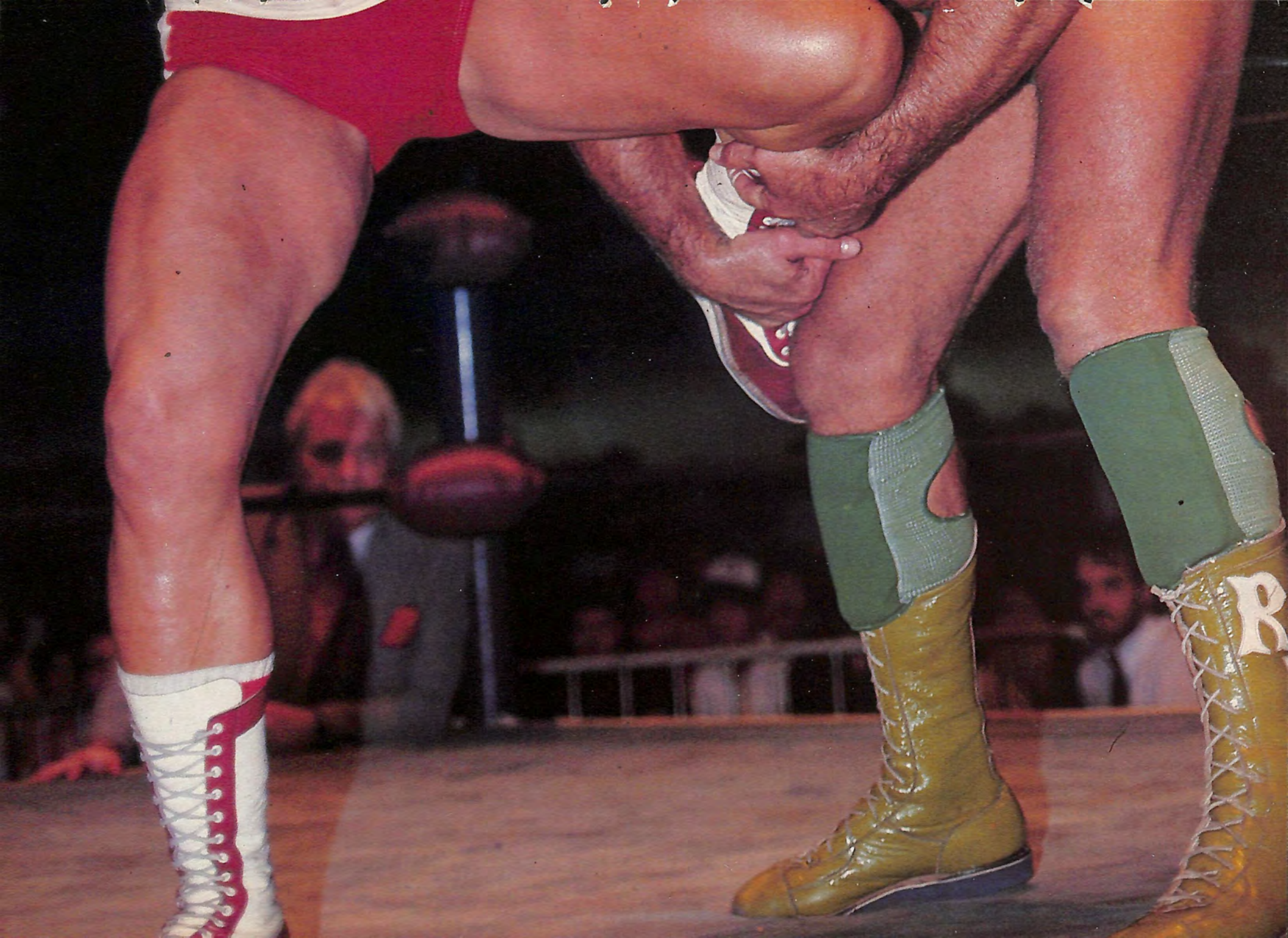

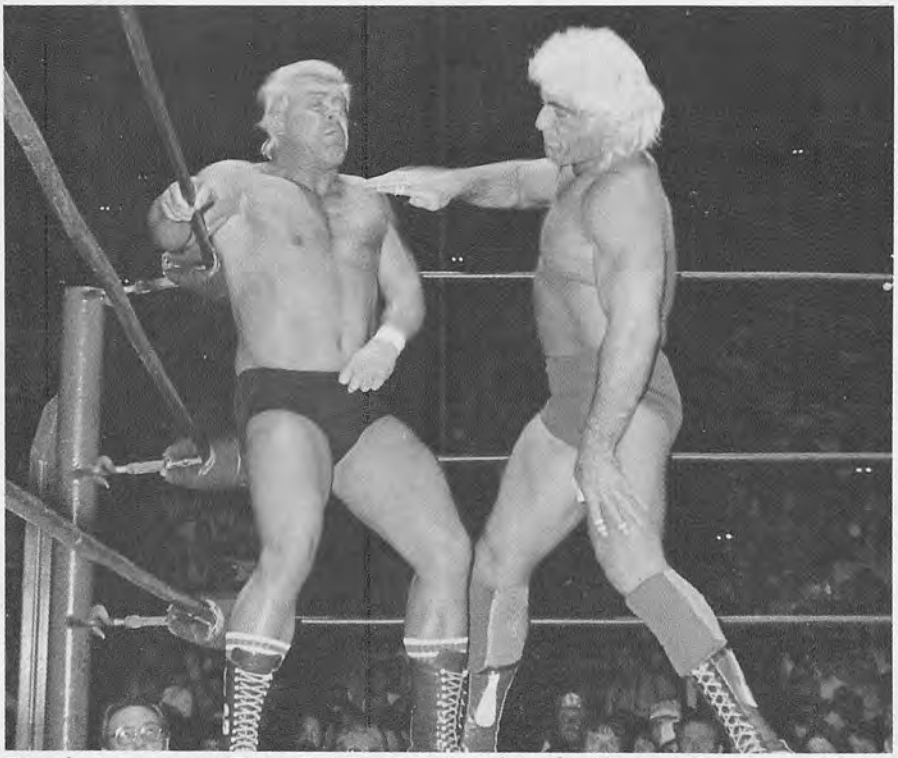

Ric chops away at Ron Garvin. Garvin takes all this punishment and keeps coming back for more.

The determination can be seen all over the face of Garvin as he applies a boston crab to the prone Champion.

world stop and take notice? But if Mr. Flair is class personified, Ron Garvin is determination personified, and it's determination that breeds World Champions. In fact at the Philadelphia Civic Center, the two met in an extraordinary match which saw Ric narrowly escape with his belt thanks to J.J. Dillon. Dillon reached over into the ring and saved him from losing by a sunset flip.

Phildelphia promoter Elliot Murnick should be commended for realizing that this is the battle of the 80's. Both men are incredible physical specimins in the ring and have toned conditioned bodies that enable them to go to the 60-minute time limit if necessary.

Fans are just starting to realize the potential of Garvin something promoters all around the world have known about for a long time. When Garvin was in Florida a few years ago he nearly took the belt, but now he has a whole new

A man who is not afraid to go to the air, Ric is put in a very embarrassing situation.

repertoire of holds in his arsenal—so many he's leaving his opponents in the World Wide area dizzy.

No longer are the fans completely behind "Nature Boy" when he sets foot in the ring. Sure he has his fans; a man who captured the hearts of spectators all around the world gets cheers just out of respect. But the crowd now sees something special in the likes of Ronnie, something they like, some ingredient that makes him stand out above challengers like Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff. Nikita did capture the crowd's approval, but after all he is a Russian-born athlete, and I don't know how many of you out there would want him as the World Champion. Ronnie is a pure-breed American that has captured the fan's approval. If he continues to battle all-out every night against a weary Ric Flair, slowly driving him insane, Slick Ric is going to get sloppy and we might see a new World Champion. ■

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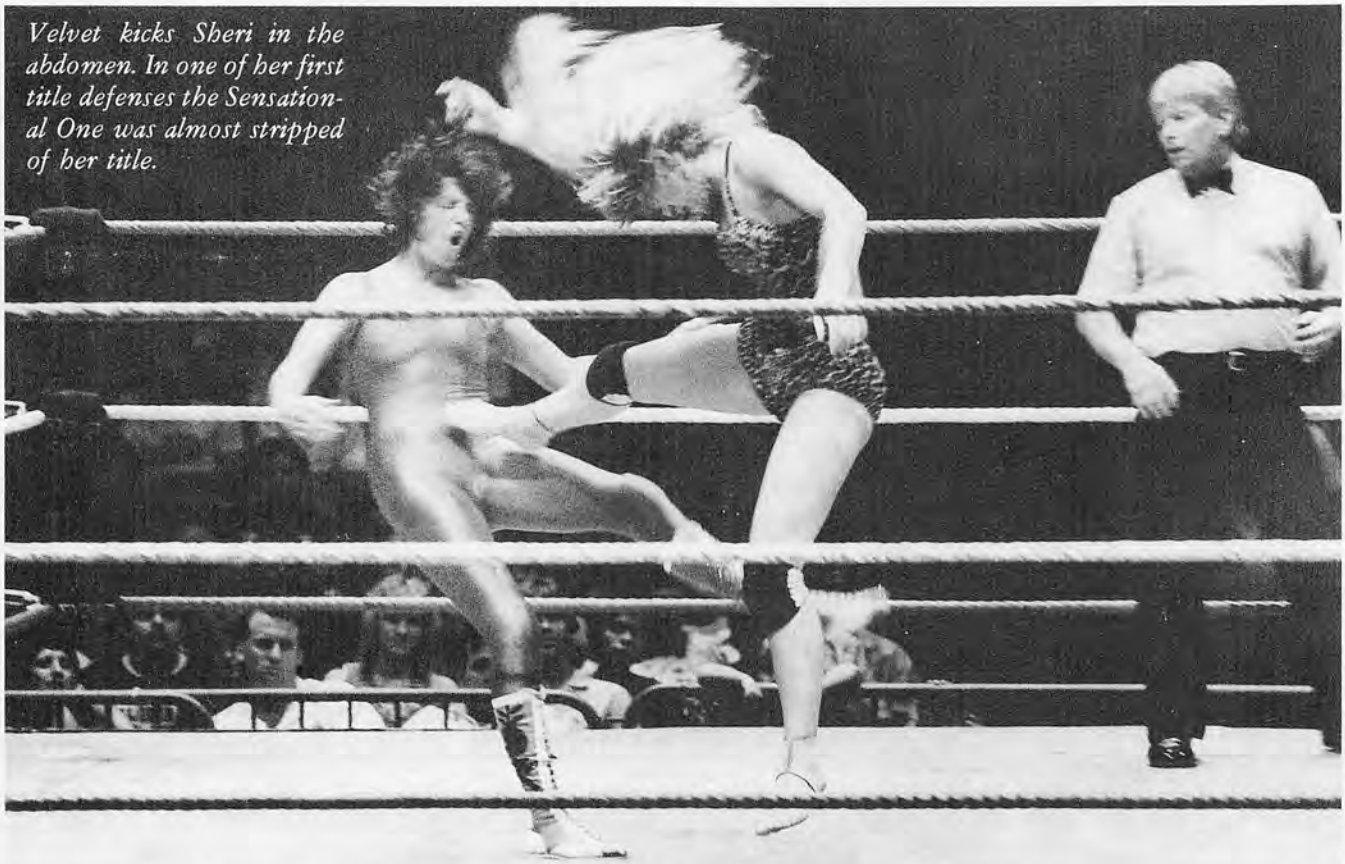
SENSATIONAL SHERI IS NO FABULOUS MOOLAH



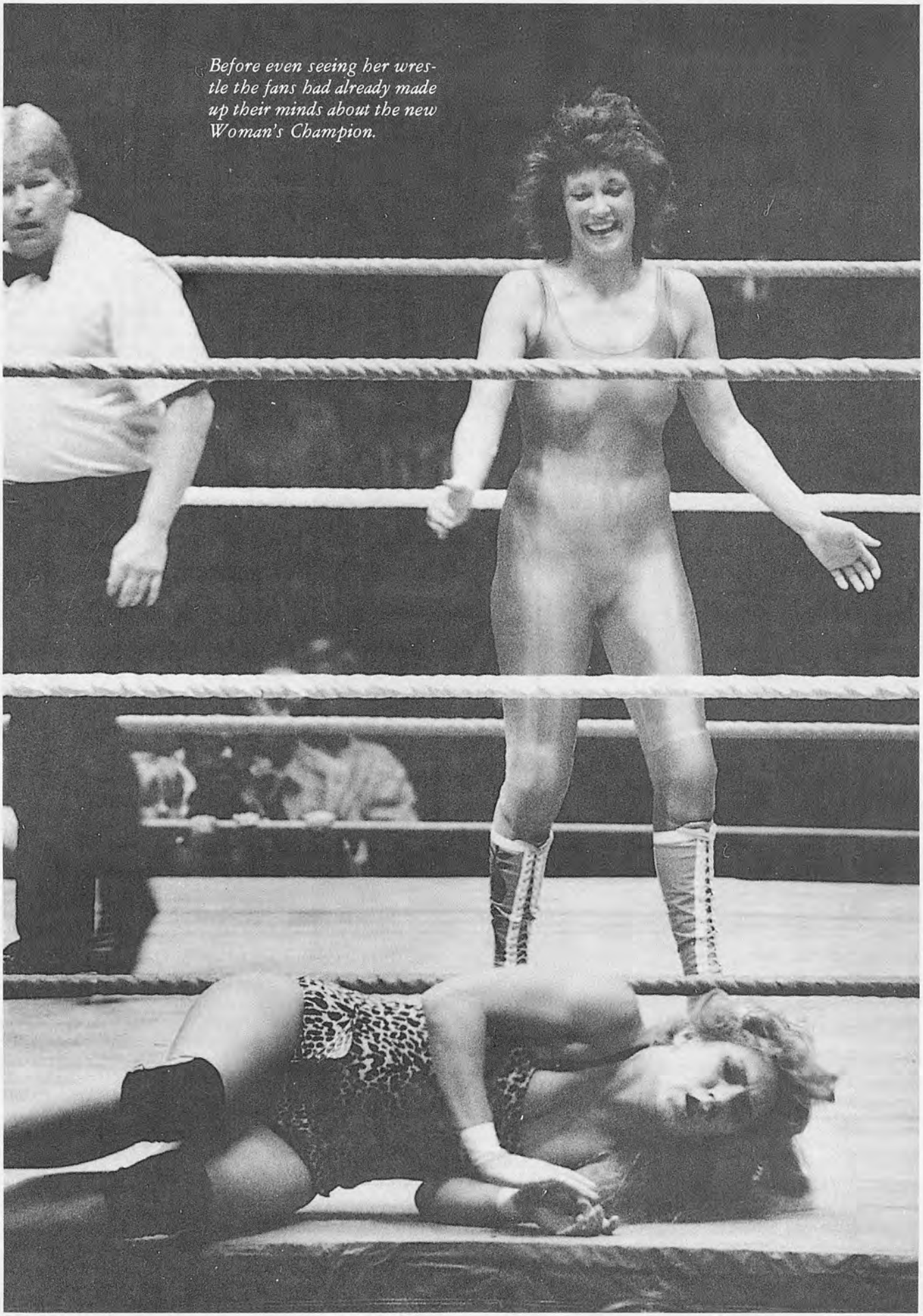
Velvet kicks Sheri in the abdomen. In one of her first title defenses the Sensational One was almost stripped of her title.

Photos by John Barrett

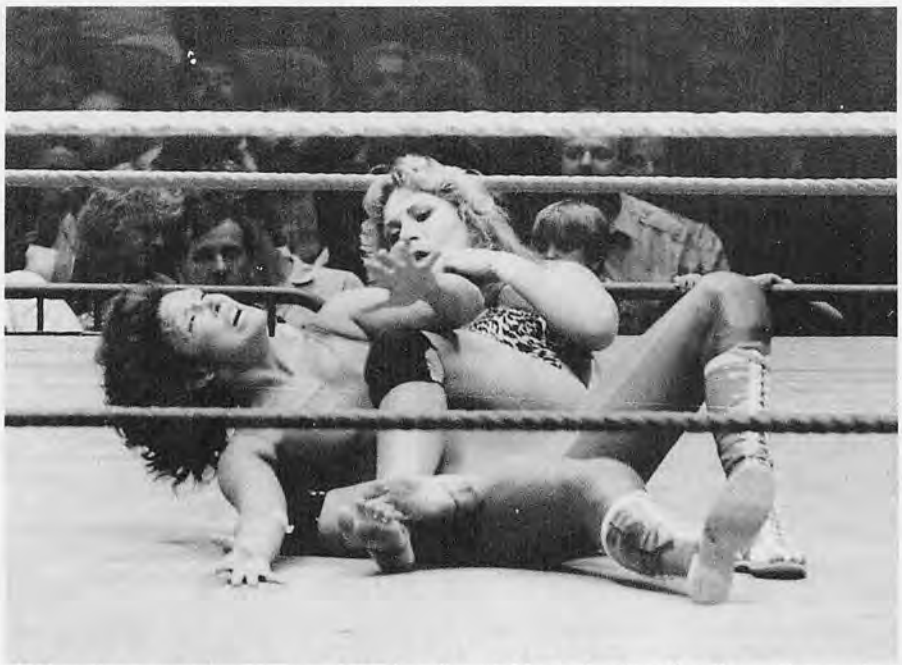
By ED POWERS

The long, long reign of The Fabulous Moolah, the WWF Ladies World Wrestling Champion, for only the second time in well over 25 years has ended. The new title holder is, part-time wrestler, part-time wrestling manager, Sheri Martell. That's right, Sheri Martell. Read it and weep. I don't know who was more shocked by this happening, Moolah or me. That Martell was even in contention for the title is, in itself amazing, but that she should get a title match and then somehow manage to win the title is incredible, absolutely incredible. If Moolah had to be dethroned, think of all the ladies both in and out of the WWF with better credentials for her to lose to. Wendi Richter of course, Debbie Combs, Velvet McIntyre, Susan Starr, and of them and others too numerous to mention yes, but Sheri Martell no. The former ladies are wrestlers. Miss Martell is a joke. I know she was AWA Ladies Champion and has held other titles, but how she got them and moreover how she kept them, is a complete mystery to me. I've seen her in person, I'ver seen her in television matches and I've seen her on videos. She shows me nothing. She's a ring veteran and a technician with some degree of skills, but she's not my idea of a champion and apparently, not the fans either.

I attended the recent card at Madison Square Garden in New York, when she made her first area appearance. She looked lovely and as always seemed to be in great physical shape. She had on a classy, fitted maroon jumpsuit, over which she wore a long flowing cape of the same color, trimmed in gold and naturally her new belt. Well, the fans booed her. She was the new ladies champion, but most of them had never seen here before and they booed her. Before she'd even gotten into the ring, they'd already made up their minds about her. Then, she got in and convinced them. When she announced that in the future she was to be called "Sensational Sheri", that was it. The packed arena was now firmly on the side of her opponent Velvet McIntyre. The match was mercifully short. McIntrye, worked her butt off and Martell after giving her all, which was apparently not enough, used the ropes for the pin. How, could she have done that? It's one thing for Moolah, a woman of, shall we say, a



Before even seeing her wrestle the fans had already made up their minds about the new Woman's Champion.



Velvet is a much better grappler than Sheri. Here she ties the Champion up in a leg scissors.

How long can Sheri stay on top? Will she be able to hold onto her belt if the Fabulous Moolah comes back for revenge?

certain age, to in desperation, use whatever leverage she can to maintain her career. I don't condone that, but that, I can at least understand. Martell is a different story, a different case all together. She, is a much younger woman and this was her first major New York appearance. How could she let herself be seen in such a low unfavorable light? Was she tired, unprepared, or was she just telling the world unconsiously that she just doesn't have what it takes? Afterwards, she ran back to the dressing room, with the belt which she barely managed to get away from McIntyre and hasn't been seen professionally since.

I'll admit it, I'm biased. I have been and will always be, one of Moolah's biggest fans. I never missed a chance to see her in person, in action. She'd strut out of the dressing room, wearing her belt, carrying an elegant, dainty little handbag, glaring at the fans through those trademark eyeglasses with the rinestone dollar signs across the lens. Then she'd take off the belt, put down that bag, take off the glasses and tear into whomever had the nerve to climb into the ring against her. She'd bite, she'd claw, she'd kick and yes,

"Martell has the belt now, so where does this leave Moolah?"

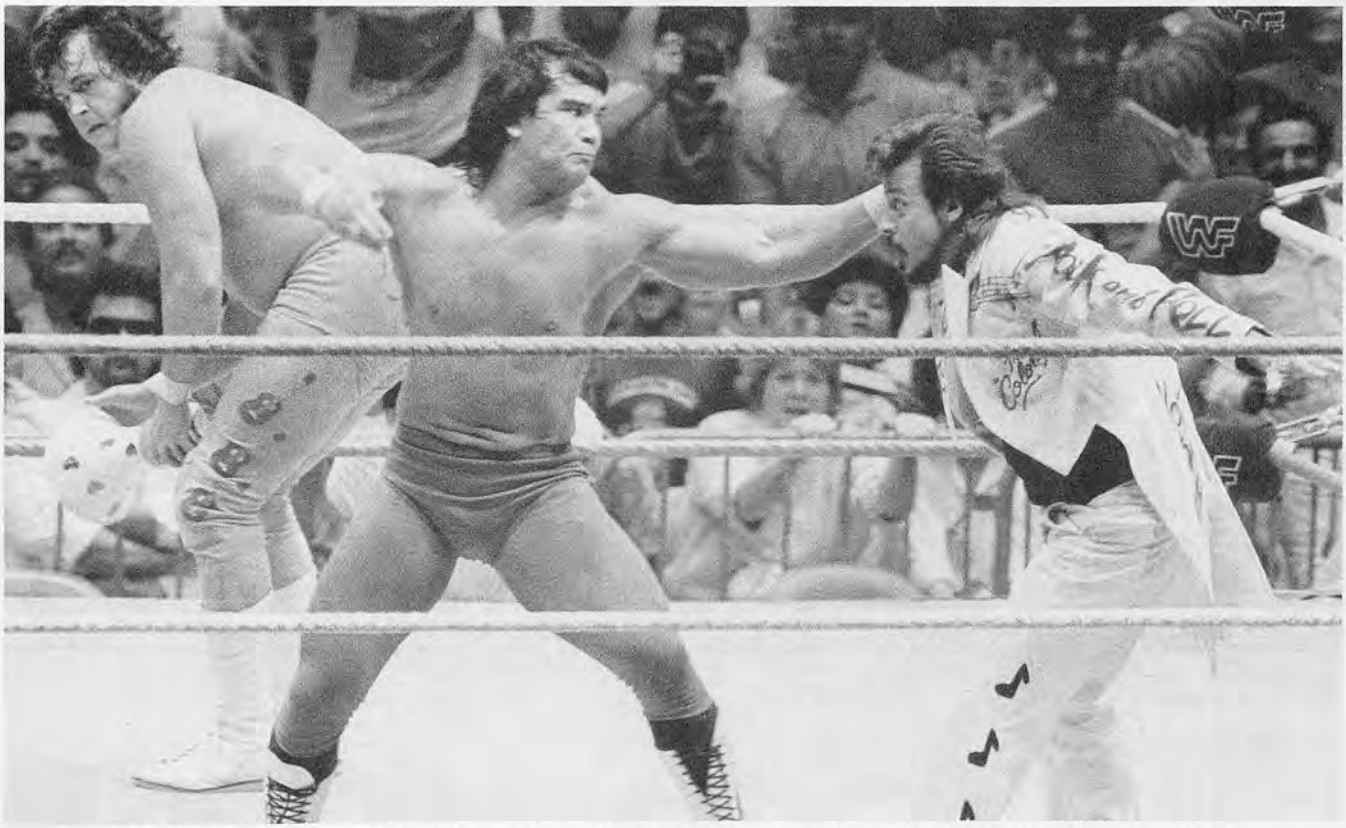
she'd cheat if necessary. She'd do whatever it took to get the job done, including working on the poor referee if he didn't see things her way. When it was over, come Hell or highwater, she'd still have the belt. Her matches might not have been entirely ethical or completely on the up and up, but the fans got their money's worth. They knew they'd seen a fighter, a true champion and had to admire her for that.

Martell has the belt now, so where does that leave Moolah? Well, no male or female champion in any sport has dominated their particular sport the way she has. If she never had a rematch, if she never regained the title, if she never even set foot in the ring again, her place in wrestling history was long ago assured. Can Martell make that statement? Do you honestly think she'll ever be able to? I'm no fortune teller and I can't predict the future, but in my wildest dreams, I can't see her holding onto the title for any real length of time. There are just too many hard working, serious contenders, including Moolah, ready, willing and able to take it away from her. In fact, by the time you read this, I wouldn't be at all surprised if she had already lost it. ■

WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

RETURN OF THE DRAGON: *RICKY STEAMBOAT BREATHES FIRE AGAIN!*

"My last opportunity. . .Randy Savage the day has finally come. The minutes. . .the seconds. . .we have reached our moment. As you and I climb into the ring, we clash like two titans. But there will be only one winner, one winner Savage. This Dragon is breathing fire! This Dragon will scorch your back! I will come away with the Championship belt, and see new horizons!" —Wrestlemania III



The Dragons' not going to let anything stand in his way, not even the interfering Jimmy Hart.

By JOEL EISENBERG

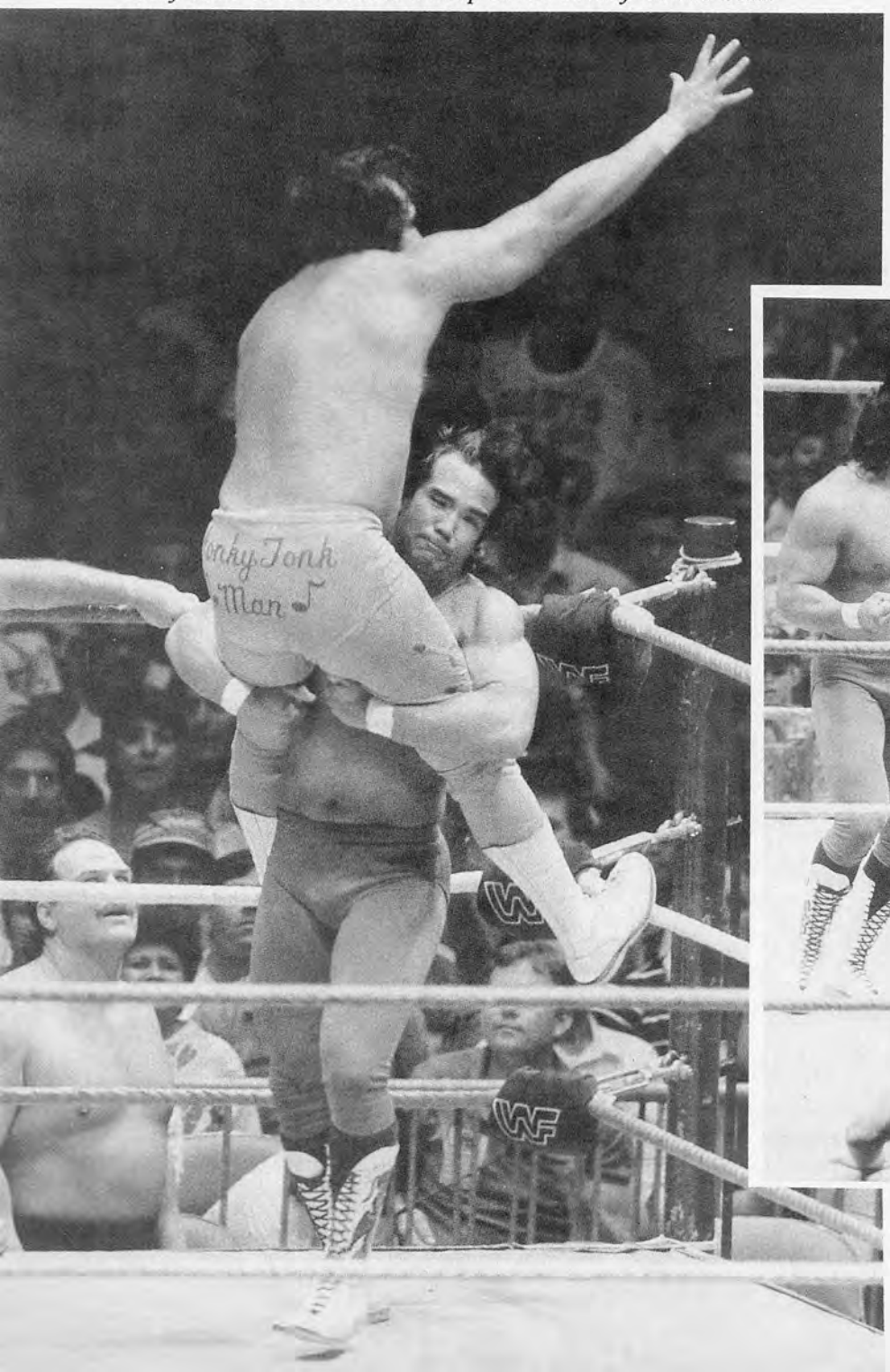
Macho madness had humbled the Dragon before a nationwide television audience, responding to his rival's title challenge by delivering a near-fatal injury. Armed with the timekeeper's bell, Savage leapt from the top rope and smashed the weapon onto the throat of the prone marital arts master, severely damaging his larynx and consequent breathing flow. Out of action for some three months, Steamboat vowed, upon his return, to humiliate his tormentor by re-dedicating himself towards the Championship. Finally, after weeks of preliminary successes, the Dragon rejoiced in ultimate victory. In a match that has become widely regarded as one of the greatest WWF title bouts of all time, Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat defeated "Macho Man" Randy Savage in 14:35, for the Intercontinental strap on March 31, 1987. This sweet taste of glory, however, lost its flavor rather abruptly. On June 2, 1987 Steamboat was upset for the belt by the unrated Honky Tonk Man in Buffalo, New York. He has since vowed to recapture the gold at any cost.

Ricky rears back to deliver a chop to the Honky Tonk's head.

Rick Steamboat entered the World Wrestling Federation in late 1984, fresh from a stint in Jim Crockett's Mid-Atlantic Promotion. Scientifically, perhaps one of the ten most capable in the sport even at this time. Ricky's WWF debut was inauspicious at best. He won nearly all his early matches but absorbed an inordinate amount of punishment during each victory. Fan response was polite but, surprisingly, in this regard he was not an overnight sensation.

Following a rugged win over Mat Borne in a Wrestlemania I preliminary bout Steamboat realized that in order to garner any championship shots in this most competitive of Federations, he *must* fight fire with fire. His previously reserved martial arts background became a calling card in the Ring, while his wrestling briefs and boots were replaced with jet black (later white) ninja regalia. The conservative Hawaiian veteran Rick Steamboat had been transformed into Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, and a new superstar was born.

The *new* Steamboat immediately earned the wrath of some of the more notorious WWF rulebenders. Two-time



This reverse backbreaker (left), didn't put the Dragon away for good. He came back breathing fire.

Like a cat ready to pounce, Ricky mounts the ropes for his famous flying body press.

intercontinental Champ Don Muraco, along with his manager Mr. Fuji, began a feud with the Dragon that lasted well over a year. Having survived an old-fashioned "hanging" in the midst of the ordeal, Steamboat later was temporarily blinded by his fellow Hawaiian when sprayed in the eyes with a foreign mist on an installment of "Saturday Night's Main Event." The three (in two-on-one situations) battled in cages and with straps throughout the country with the Dragon Ultimately gaining a decisive upper hand. It was time to move on.

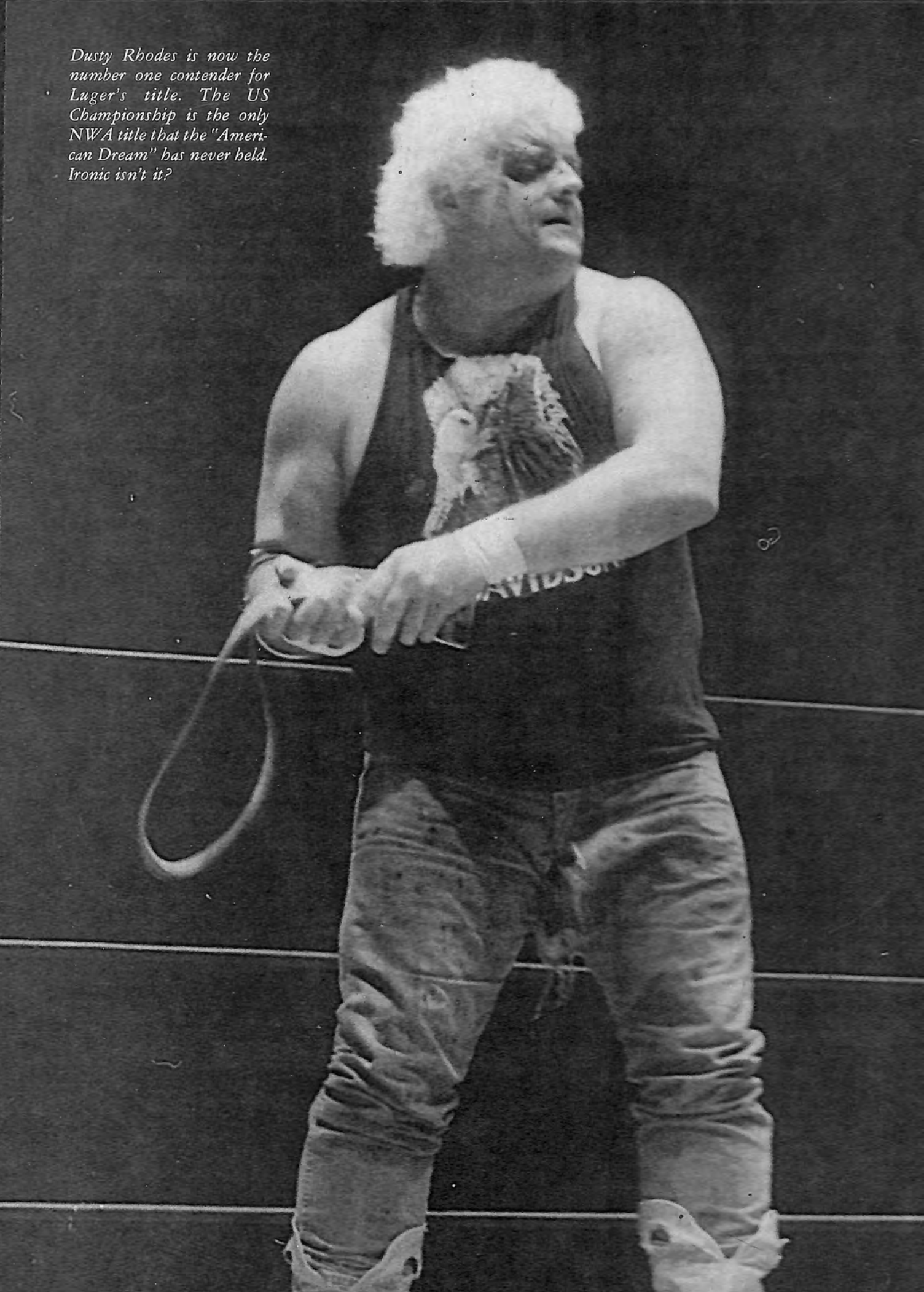
Next up was the intimidating Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Having fallen victim to Jake's awesome 'DDT' finishing maneuver on a concrete arena floor, then suffering the humiliation of the Snake Damien wrapped about his unconscious body, Steamboat again had to rely on his Eastern discipline to overcome a seemingly unstoppale force. He succeeded, in a long, bloody war that fully showcased his strength of spirit.

Enter the "Macho Man" Savage scenerio. By Wrestlemania III, Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat was a man hardened by the brutal realities of the squared circle, and he was at both his physical and mental peak. The fact that his victory on March 31 was controversial—Savage had Steamboat pinned for at least a 10-count while the referee was semi-conscious and unable to count—matters little. The official record books will forever list Ricky Steamboat as the title victor on that historic date.

Steamboat's reign lasted little over two months, shorter than any other Intercontinental Champion. But therein lies a poignant footnote to this apparently unimpressive statistic. On July 7, 1987 at 12:23 PM, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Ricky and his wife Bonnie became the proud parents of an eight pound, three ounce baby boy. A baby! Can this mean that Steamboat's loss to the lightly—regarded Honky Tonk Man, admittedly an underrated wrestler but nowhere in the Dragon's class, could have been a fluke? Ricky Steamboat has always been a consummate professional, but is it possible that the impending arrival of a little Dragon Steered him away from his gameplan just a bit? We here at *Main Event* do not think this unreasonable, and we congratulate Ricky and Bonnie on their new family member.

And this is where the saga of Ricky Steamboat begins anew. He has realized now that his life would be complete only upon the regaining of his title. To this end, he has promised his wife, his son, Richard, and all of his fans that 1987 and 1988 will indeed become known as the "Years of the Dragon." And that is why Ricky Steamboat is our wrestler of the month. ■

George Steele came into the ring to count 1..2..3, and declaired Ricky the new champion. Too bad he's not a referee.



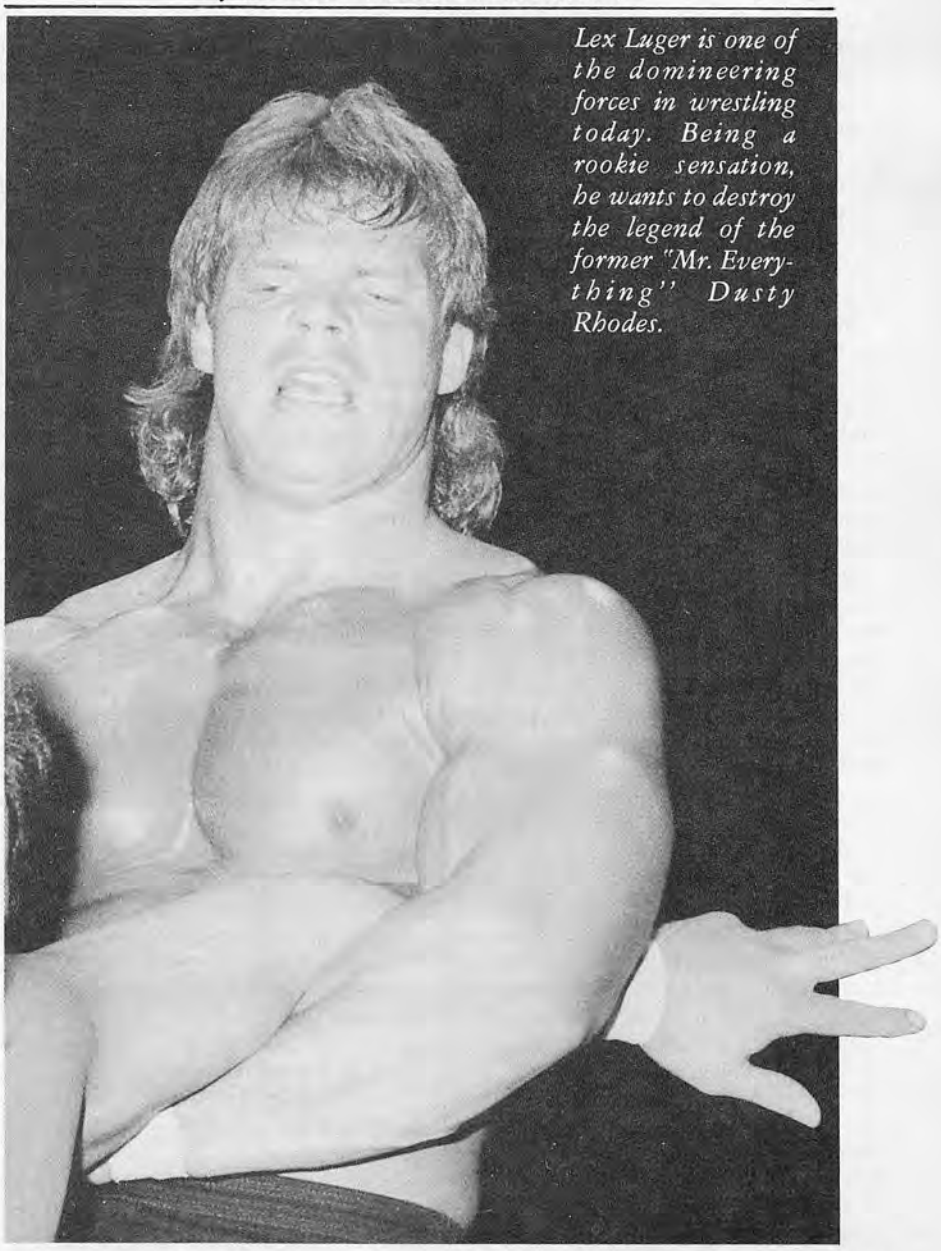
Dusty Rhodes is now the number one contender for Luger's title. The US Championship is the only NWA title that the "American Dream" has never held. Ironic isn't it?

THE SLEEPING MONSTER:

DUSTY RHODES IS THE MAN TO STOP LEX LUGER!

Lex Luger started out as a rookie sensation. Now that the grappler has come into his own by capturing the US title he wants to become a legend. But in order to become a legend he has to defeat one man. A man named Dusty Rhodes.

By CLINT "STAR" FREEMAN



Lex Luger is one of the domineering forces in wrestling today. Being a rookie sensation, he wants to destroy the legend of the former "Mr. Everything" Dusty Rhodes.

In his two years as a professional wrestler, no one has come as far and impressed so many people as Lex Luger. A veteran of the Canadian Football League, Lex is a monster standing 6' 5", weighing 275 lbs. of perfectly proportioned, hardened steel. Lex bills himself "The Total Package," extremely agile and handsome, with strong facial features reminiscent of Conan the Barbarian. While his massive build recalls fellow Chicagoans the Road Warriors, Luger is also a college graduate with the mental skills to outsmart those dim-witted brutes.

Lex Luger debuted in Florida in late 1985, coached by amateur greats Bob Roop and Hiro Matsuda. Since then, Lex has been every expert's choice to dominate the sport into the 1990's. After just two weeks in the Sunshine State, Lex beat Wahoo McDaniel for the prestigious Southern title. Luger reigned virtually undefeated for the next eighteen months, battling Barry Windham, Masked Superstar, and Kendo Nagasaki. In several memorable world title contests, NWA Champ Ric Flair narrowly escaped with his life, not to mention his belt. Few men

Photos by Robert Riddick and Bill Otten

have left such a deep impression on the game in so short a time.

After wiping out all competition in Florida, ambitious Luger moved up to Jim Crockett's nationwide NWA promotion. He wisely alied himself with the elite Four Horsemen stable. Within weeks elder Ole Anderson was dismissed in favor of the muscular newcomer. Lex even joined his former enemy Flair in some tag matches. Luger soon set his sights on Nikita Koloff's coveted U.S. Title belt, and like everything else in his brief career, the coveted U.S. title came to him easily. In a lights out steel cage match during the July Bashes, Luger soundly thrashed Russian Nightmare Nikita, with some assistance from his crafty manager J.J. Dillon.

But by whipping Nikita from pillar to post, mighty Lex also got the attention of his Super Power partner Dusty Rhodes. As quickly as he had seized the belt, Lex was now embroiled in a feud with the legendary American Dream. Suddenly Dusty is the biggest stumbling block Lex has faced along his quest to dominate wrestling. Lex Luger is the self-styled "Total Package," the perfect combination of brains, strength and desire. Yet he sorely lacks the single most vital weapon in any wrestler's arsenal: Experience. And in the matsport, main event experience is spelled D-U-S-T-Y. The American Dream has written the book of wrestling and lived the life over the last twenty years.

With the exception of Hulk Hogan, there is no more recognizable wrestler in the U.S. today than Dusty Rhodes, Star Dust himself. Big Dust has been a top-ranked contender in the AWA, WWF and NWA in a spectacular career spanning two decades. During the late Sixties and early Seventies, "Dirty" Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch were known as the Outlaws, one of the toughest, most fearsome and respected tag teams in wrestling history. In the late Seventies, Rhodes challenged then—WWF kingpin Superstar Billy Graham to a series of bull-rope matches, culminating in a bloody Madison Square Garden main event. While Graham is at the tail end of a fine career, fading to black in the WWF, Big Dust hangs tenaciously in the NWA Top Five ratings.

It is in the NWA, of course, the oldest and most prestigious organization, that Star Dust has etched out his wide berth in the wrestling Hall of Fame. Rhodes, the King of Saturday night, has done it all in the NWA: three World Title reigns, countless regional and tag titles, Florida's most popular wrestler ever. The American Dream can match box office receipts and won/loss records with any wrestler alive. Eat that with your Wheaties, Hulkster!!

The cliche "he has met and defeated the best in the business" truly does apply to Dusty Rhodes. The tale of Dust's glorious ring career is writ large in the scars on his thick brow. Any longtime wrestling fan has vivid memories of Dusty's many classic feuds against stars such as Harley Race, Ric Flair, the Sheik, demonic Kevin Sullivan, Outlaw Ron Bass, Canadian Jos LeDuc, Korean assassin Pak Song, King Curtis Iaukea, the Funks, the Andersons, Tully Blanchard, Ivan Koloff, etc. etc.

Will Lex be able to counter Dusty's Figure four? Ask Tully Blanchard how tough the hold is.

The average wrestling fan, a nine-to-five blue collar worker, has always identified intensely with Virgil Riley Runnels Rhodes. The son of a plumber from Austin, Texas, the American Dream worked his way up from the streets to attain fame and fortune, epitomized by his three World Title reigns. Dusty has never forgotten his humble roots. His earthy speech and funky dress sense have wide appeal among both children and adults.

Rhodes' credentials are unassailible. Yet in the last year, he has suffered humbling losses to Tully Blanchard and career-threatening leg injuries at the hands of the Four Horsemen. With his tired body getting neither younger nor slimmer, the plumber's son may slowly be riding off into the Texas sunset. As Lex Luger attempts to hasten the Dream's demise, Rhodes must draw on his unparallelled experience to combat the youngster's awesome natural gifts. In Dust's favor, wrestling is a sport in which experience has enabled old-timers Lou Thesz, Verne Gagne and Nick Bockwinkel to regain championship status well into their twilight years.

Luger's Four Horsemen stablemates are doubtless teaching him the intricasies of rule-breaking. Yet one wonders if Lex, even at the peak of his strength, could possibly lift immense Dusty on to his shoulders and hold him there in his crippling backbreaker? The backbreaker is rendered useless against a whale-sized behemoth like Rhodes, even for a man like Luger.

To his credit, Rhodes has continually expanded his repertoire of holds to adapt to each new challenger. In his epic career, Dust has mastered many finishing maneuvers, from the figure-four and pile-driver to the clothesline and superplex. Dusty's famous Bionic Elbow is perhaps the best elbow smash in the business.

To combat Lex Luger, Dust has wisely added a new weapon to his arsenal, a version of the deadly sleeper hold. Mid-Atlantic veteran and longtime friend Johnny Weaver has taught Dusty his Weaver Lock sleeper. The Weaver hold may be just the tool Dust needs to slow Luger's charging ambition. Dusty, of course, knows every inch of the twenty by twenty foot squared circle with his eyes closed. With each match adding to Lex's body of knowledge, the youngster must always keep his not inconsiderable wits about him in the ring. Should Lex be groggy from the Weaver Clutch, Dust could easily finish off the monster with the figure-four or a slick small package.

Lex Luger's future is so bright at this point it is blinding. He must still set his sights on each individual obstacle in his path along the way. Nikita Koloff was Chapter One, now Dusty Rhodes is Chapter Two. At the moment Star Dust is a formidable foe for young Luger. With his matchless experience, legenday heart, and the Weaver lock, Dust may be able to lull the Chicago monster to sleep, at least for a cat nap. But can Dusty Rhodes put a stop to Lex Luger's championship aspirations once and for all? That's a dream even bigger than the Heartbeat of America himself. ■

THE CONFUSING WORLD OF PAUL ORNDORFF

Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff is once again a fan favorite. The fans came flocking to his side once again, after all the things he had said about them and all the things he had done to their precious heroes.

By SIR JOHNATHAN BAINE

Photos by John Barrett and Steve Pfeffer

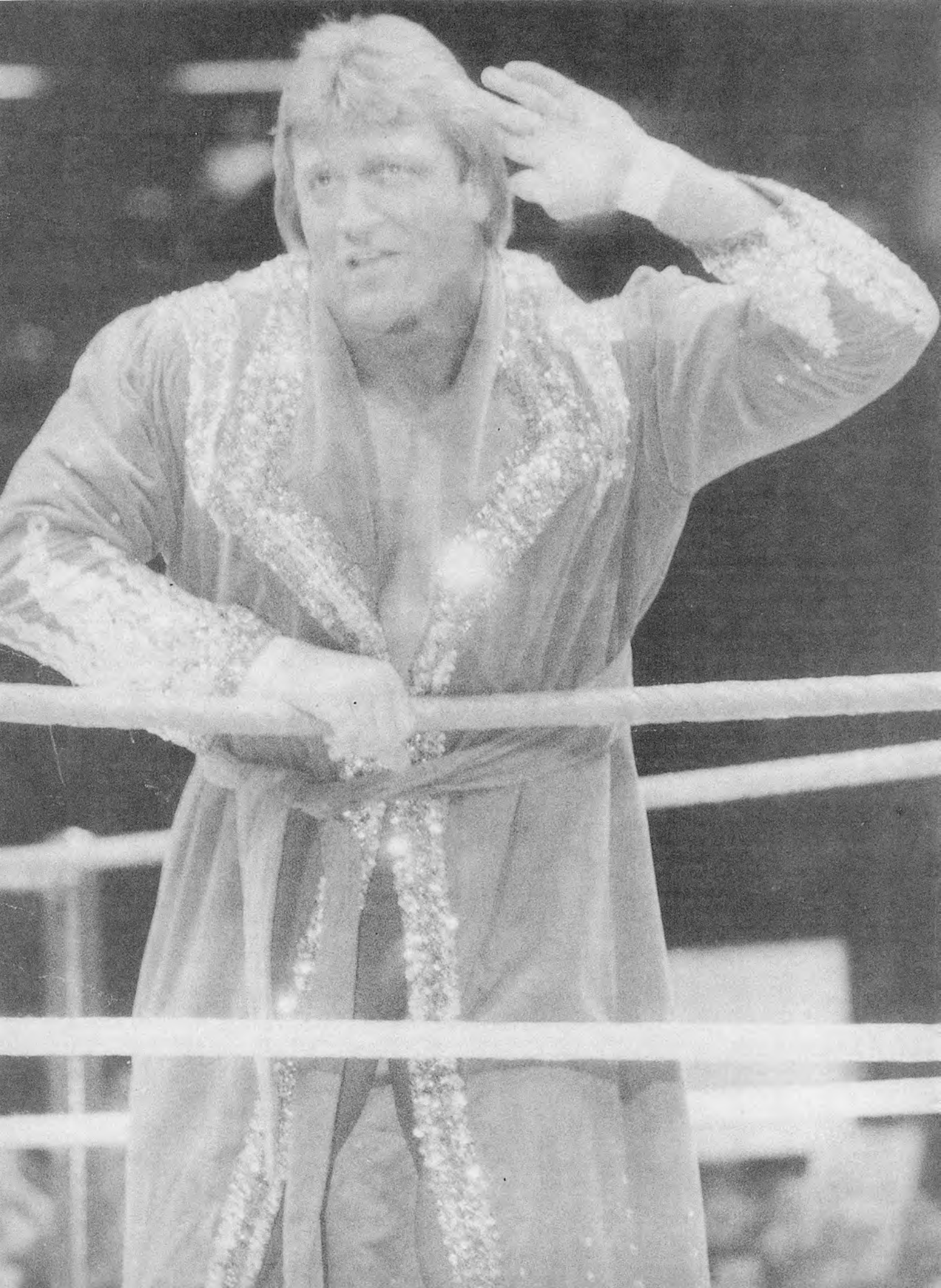
Pedro Morales rears back to clobber a dazed Paul Orndorff. "Mr. Wonderful" doesn't look so wonderful without a manager guiding his career. Nobody can call Sir Oliver Humperdink a manager is how Sir Johnathan feels.

I don't know about you chaps over in America but this is all so confusing. One second Paul Orndorff is one of your favorites, and the next you can't stand the mans guts. Make up your minds already! Either you hate him or love him. Personally I couldn't care less, but it's my job to report on the happenings of the wrestling world.

Apparently "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff came into the World Wrestling Federation as a rulebreaker under the guidance of Roddy Piper. Under Piper's brilliant leadership he secured a place in the fans most unpopular man of the year column. Then, in a move that probably saved his career, he alied himself with one of the greatest minds in all of wrestling: Bobby "the Brain" Heenan. Throughout his association with "the Brain" he secured many title shots against Champion Hulk Hogan, who was avoiding the man for as long as possible. *Never* had the Champion been pushed to the limit before he met "Mr. Wonderful", he was his first "true" challenge.

After the eventful night of Wrestlemania, when Orndorff evidently turned his back on his rulebreaking past, he fired Bobby on national television, thereby aparently humiliating the manager of Champions beyond any reconsolidation. From then on Orndorff has been a shallow shell of his former self, never gaining any type of momentum to go anywhere in the WWF. If you think carefully, how many championship shots did he get against the Intercontinental champion Randy Savage?.. None. Not one Championship fight. He was lost without managerial guidance. His talent was wasted in hopeless feuds with men like Muraco, Orton and Piper, not to mention signing for matches against former manager Bobby Heenan.

During this period the Hulkster took him under his wing and showed him the inner sanctums of his training facilities. Orndorff studied long and hard, never missing anything the blond giant had to say to him. Then, in a television tag-team match that pitted the Champ and Orndorff against King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd, he turned back to his old ways. Leaving the Hulkster battered and betrayed he now reformed his alliance with "the Brain". This was all planned right from the beginning. The fools believed it, now we know the Champion's secrets and we can use them against him. Did you idiots in your wildest dreams ever think that one of my men would fire me? Me, the Brain of wrestling? You're all stupider than you look." Heenan was reported thrilled at how his plan worked. He now had a man with all his natural abilities in the squared circle, who now



"Mark my words that before the next Wrestlemania rolls around he'll backstab you, turn on you like all your so called friends do."

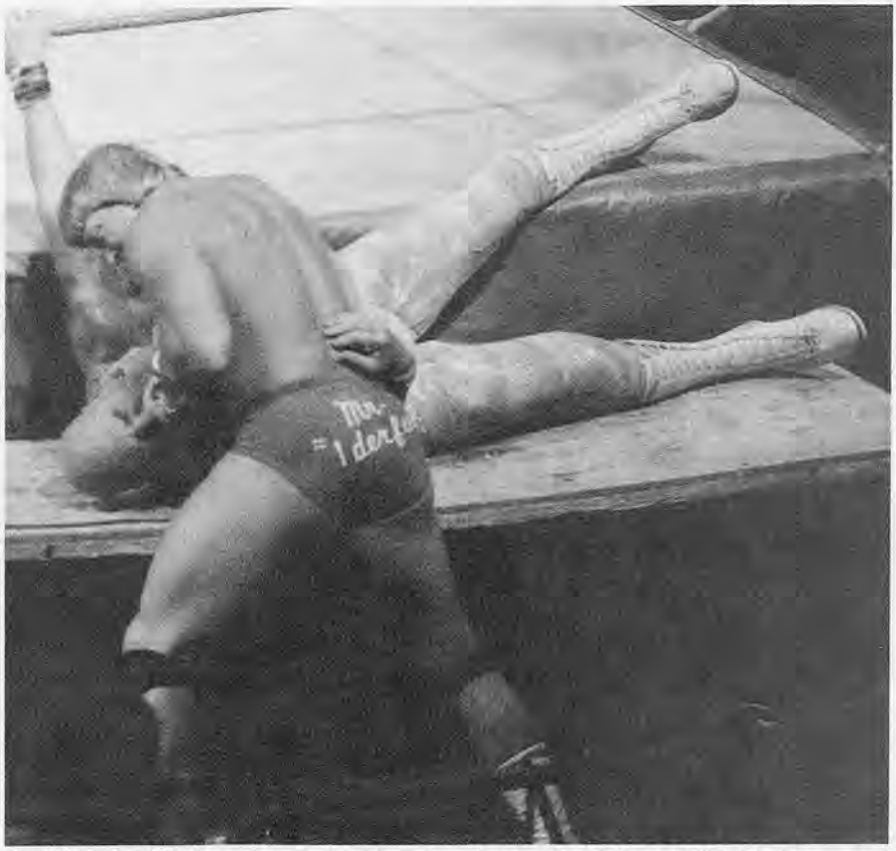
knew the insides and the workings of the biggest name in wrestling.

The next few months went pretty well for the Heenan Family. They slowly moved up contention spots of the ratings for shots against a vengeful champion. "I'll never trust anyone again, I treated him like a brother and he stabbed me in the back," was the reaction from the irate Hogan. Well Mr. Hulkster, let me ask you something. If you don't trust anybody anymore, what are you doing with that turncoat (jailbird) Ken Patera? Mark my words that before the next Wrestlemania rolls around he'll backstab you, turn on you like *all* your so called friends do.

Again, Orndorff proved he was more than a match for anything that the Champion could muster. Again and again scoring un-decisive victories via disqualification or countout. These battles in no way compared to the earlier ones which left the giant huffing and puffing trying to catch his breath. No, they were much less dramatic and less hyped because the promoters felt that "Mr. Wonderful" was loosing his touch. Bobby Heenan was losing interest as well, half the time not even bothering to accompany his man to the squared circle.

Then came another turning point in the "Brandon Bull's" career, he left the Federation for a long overdue vacation. Fans all around the world were saying; "where did Orndorff go? Did Vince kick him out for some unknown reason? Or was he just frustratd with his career?". Not even "the Brain" was quite sure what to make out of the situation. When asked in interviews of his whereabouts, he just said; "he'll be back sooner than you think. Don't butt into my private business."

Four months later the "Wonderful One" re-emerged. This time he was immediately stopped in his tracks by none other than the Junkyard Dog. The Dog, it seemed, had a special return clause in his contracts stating that in the future he would be matched up with him again. As you may already know, the JYD and Paul had many a battle when Orndorff first came in the Organization. In most of those battles the Dog was left bloody and battered in the ring wondering what had just happened to him. Indeed, fighting Orndorff is like trying to stop a mack truck. Tito Santana also had some return shots scheduled, basically because their



Paul Orndorff is once again hearing the cheers of the fans (left), his last match as a rulebreaker was against Superstar Billy Graham.

eariler Intercontinental Championship matches were classic. Both of these grapplers were standing in the way of his ultimate goal, the World Champion. Orndorff just back from a vacation, the matchmakers of the WWF used that as an excuse for him to be stopped. "You have to prove yourself in the ring. Nobody takes off for a few months and expects a championship match as soon as they come back." Why then was Hulk Hogan granted his match against the Iron Shiek for the title, when all he did was wrestle one tag-team match with former Champ Bob Backlund? Their answer to that was; "Hogan has time and time again proven he's championship material, he's wrested the best in the world and come out on top." I rest my case.

This time Heenan was taking the brunt of the criticism, and Paul was noticably annoyed. As Heenan's Family grew and grew Paul was getting further and further away. Many times when "Mr. Wonderful" was scheduled for a match on a certain card with the family, he just left the arena and gave up his payday out of anger. When in New York he often was seen pumping iron at a local gym rather than competing in the ring.

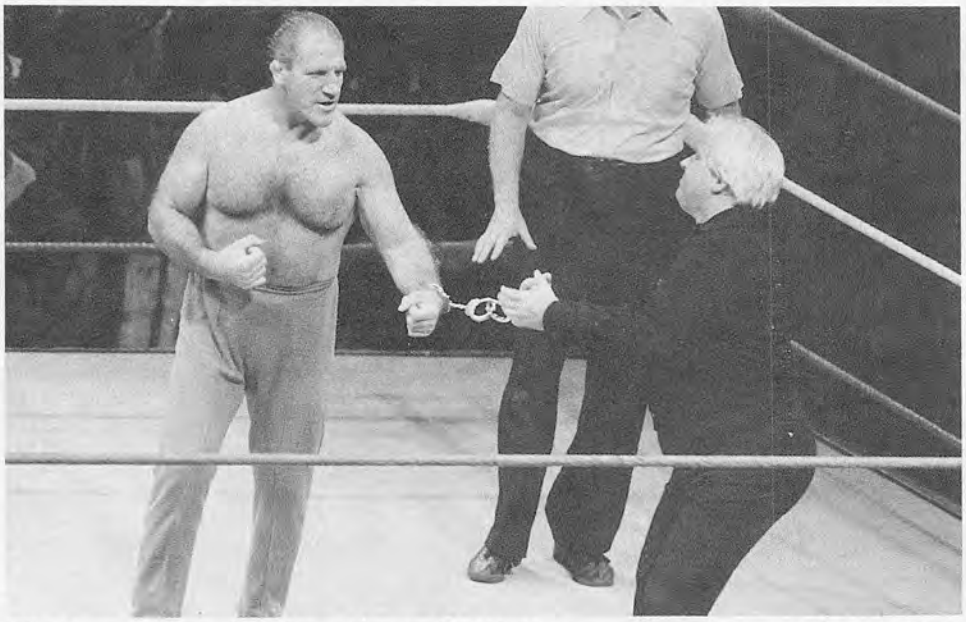
It finally reaches the boiling point. During an interview for television, Bobby Heenan said that he would produce Orndorff next week so he can show how much better conditioned his new man Rick Rude was than bulky Orndorff. The next week came around and Paul was less than amused. He then proceeded to fire Mr. Heenan for the second time and brought out his new manager Sir Oliver Humperdink. All this has occured and you bloody American fans start cheering him all over again, like nothing has happened. Now it looks as if Paul is once again going to get himself involved in useless feuds, once again set himself alied with Hogan, and once again fall into the WWF's pile of nobodies. ■

MATCH OF THE MONTH

The New Jersey Meadowlands

PAUL ORNDORFF VS SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

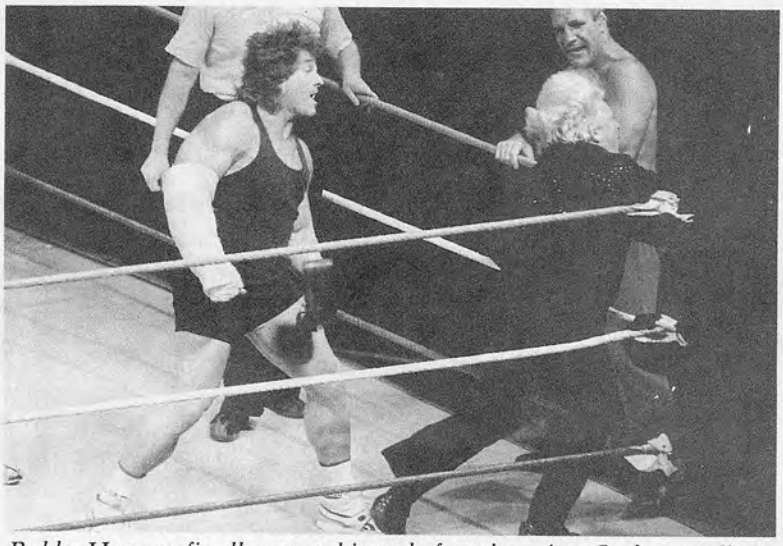
BOBBY HEENAN GETS AN OLD FASHIONED WHIPPING!



Bobby Heenan was handcuffed to the "Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino (left), Superstar controlled most of the match with bearhugs (upper), and came back to show Paul who the stronger of the two is.

In one of the last gladitorial battles under Bobby Heenan's management, Paul "Mr Wonderful" Orndorff took on Superstar Billy Graham. This match had the stipulation that if Paul lost Heenan would get whipped by Ken Patera, who was handcuffed to former World Champion Bruno Sammartino. In a surprising upset, Graham beat the extraordinary Orndorff. Heenan looked to his man for help to stop his beating, but the "Wonderful One" just shrugged his shoulders and said "You're on your own, pal," leaving the "Brain" to the mercy of a vengeful whipping belt.■

Paul rips away at the Superstar's eye



Bobby Heenan finally gets whipped after the aging Graham pulled a surprising victory.

EXCLUSIVE NO HOLDS BARRED INTERVIEW WITH DR. D. DAVID SHULTZ (Part 2)

By JOEL EISENBERG

In Part One of our special, three-part profile on David Shultz, we spoke with the controversial athlete about his career and outside experiences in the sport. In Part Two, David candidly discusses his responsibilities in a new role, as teacher to a dedicated group of future wrestling stars. At the conclusion of the article are two addresses and a phone number for individuals interested in private pro-wrestling instruction from Dr. D.

Photos by Marc Kahn

David can tie an opponent into many different shapes, many of which are not so comfortable.

JE: You're now involved in teaching wrestling classes, specifically at the Passariello Institute located in New Haven, Connecticut. As a private teacher now, what are your opinions concerning the growing use of steroids in sports today?

DS: Of the guys that I'm teaching, not one of 'em takes steroids, not one of 'em. And I'd say they are, most of them, about 285 pounds. Now, I think if one person can use steroids, everyone should be able to use 'em. It gives a disadvantage to those who don't and advantages to those who do. As for athletes using them, I think most of the guys, in the WWF, for example, do use steroids. That's my opinion. I've heard from several of the people in the WWF that gave the drug test, and seventy-four percent was positive on recreational drugs. And that's from the people in the WWF—people that have worked and took the test and told me of these findings. I took a drug test last year, in Utica, New York before giving a lecture on drugs to a high school. They asked me if I would take a drug test. Immediately I did so. I passed. I don't use steroids; I have used steroids before for injury purposes only. But it wasn't a heavy-duty steroid. It wasn't an Anabolic, like testosterone. Now, I think either everybody should use steroids, or nobody should use them.

JE: How long have you been training wrestlers?

DS: Close to a year now. The reason I started was because I had a lot of individuals close to me that went to other people to train. The only way a person can

train properly is to get in the ring with someone with experience. Killer Kowalski might have been able to train one day but now he's too old to get in there with them. If they got a question I try to explain it to them. Now, it's best for them to see another guy do something, or do it with one of these guys, 'cause I could get in there and do it with them, as I did with you. I took you through it. I drill them through it. But when you're with somebody else it's a lot harder. That's the way they learn. But my guys are gonna be good, they're all gonna be good.

JE: Any exceptionally bright prospects?

DS: Yes, the Sontag Brothers, David and Larry who are identical twins. I think they'll be very good in the future. They used to complete in power lifting meets. And Roosevelt Reed, who played college football, he's gonna be really good. And Brian Fisher, he's gonna be real good. All these guys are about 280 pounds. Brian is about 270. I'm training about six more guys, full-time. They will come along. A lot of these guys are not in the business to be big stars. A lot are in this business to take care of themselves, to be in good physical shape, to be able to walk the street without being scared of anybody. And to work once, twice a week and keep their regular jobs that they wouldn't want to give up to be a permanent Pro-Wrestler.

JE: Are people still easily intimidated by you?

DS: Yes, I have to be extra nice to people when they come in. They're still intimidated by me. After they've been in the ring with me for some time, though, they realize that I'm teaching, not wrestling them.

JE: Many wrestling schools teach, along with wrestling, interview styles, how to develop a charismatic personality, etc. From what I've seen today, you concentrate strictly on the science of the sport.

DS: That's it, I don't think a person can teach a guy how to do an interview. He can teach him maybe to holler and scream. You have to be confident in yourself, and you develop that in the ring. Only then will you develop your own interview style. That's what I do. I teach them to take care of themselves every different way.

JE: Does all this teaching cut into your own training time?

DS: No, it helps me when I get into the ring. It helps me stay in shape and it teaches me new moves. People don't realize it, but when you get into a ring and you push around and fight each other...I mean, when you push around a 300 pound guy that can bench press 500 pounds, and he's already went through your course, the more he comes the better he's gonna get. You learn moves and holds that you never knew existed. In other words, you invent new ones that people don't even know about: how to twist a guy's neck so he can't move, how to restrain a guy or stop him in his tracks. You learn all sorts of vulnerable points where you can bend a guy's leg a certain way. I'm here every day. I'm in the ring or in the gym every day that goes by.

Being shown the ropes by a man like Dr. D is great experience for anyone who wants to become a pro.

JE: Everybody I've seen here today is a heavyweight. Myself, I weigh 160 pounds. Do you get many junior heavyweights at all?

DS: Yes, as a matter of fact in my night class most of them are around 180-220. And anybody under 180 I tell them straight, 'Hey, to be a wrestler you have to weigh 200.' I don't take everybody, I turn a lot of people back. It's hard to gain weight. The reason I charge money here is to make them come back. If they don't pay, they won't come. They have to feel they will get a benefit out of it. Don't come in weighing 120 pounds, expecting me to take your money. Anyone like that wouldn't succeed so I turn him back.

JE: In a nutshell, what does your school offer that the others don't?

DS: There is one big thing. It's pro-wrestling instruction by Dr. D. David Shultz, not a school. I don't like to call myself a school because most of the other places do and they just can't compare. What it does offer is me, first thing. I've been main event all over the world. I've held 18 different titles and have been wrestling for 14 years. There is nobody any better, or any tougher, in the business. I get into the ring with my students. We got an official-size ring, 16 feet, official for most states. We have a great gym. Machines, weights, Olympic, Nautlis, different things all included in the six month course. They get free use of the gym, they have a sauna, suntan booths, massage tables, heavy bags, showers...and its's not in somebody's basement. It's one of the most modern facilities around. Plus, it offers me, and any contacts I hold in Professional Wrestling.

And that concludes the second part of our interview with Dr. D. David Shultz. For further information on Dr. D. David Shult's Private Pro-Wrestling Instruction, send name, address, phone and age to:

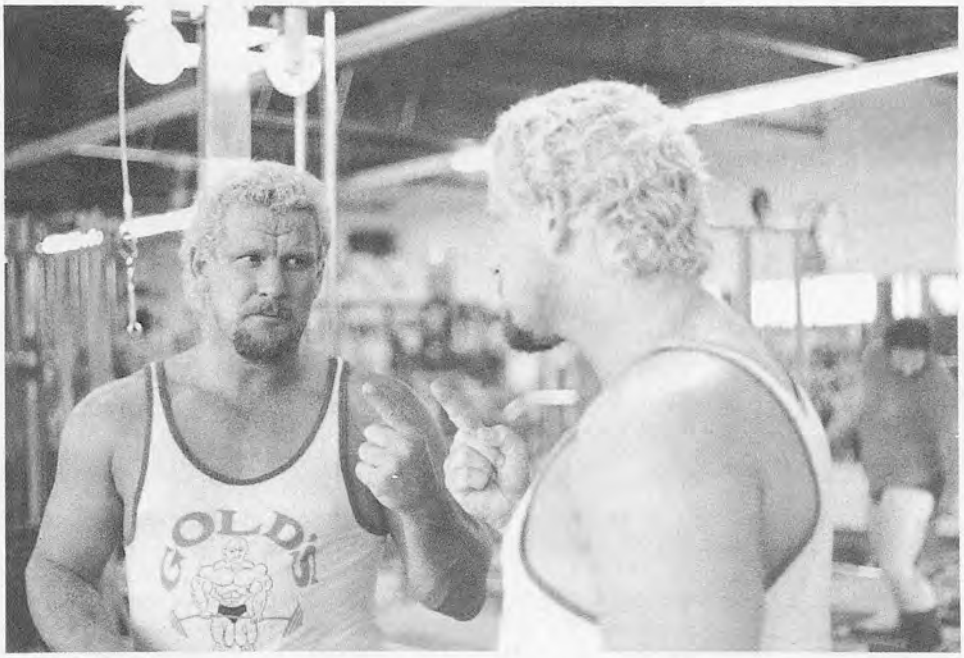
Dr. D. Pro Wrestling School
P.O. Box 3965
New Haven, CT 06525
or
Dr. D. David Shultz
518 Boston Post Road
Orange, CT 06477

If you wish to call, ask directly for Dr. D. at:

(203) 795-1001

This is a unique service to our readers. Only serious inquiries are welcome. And remember, always ask directly for Dr. D. David Shultz. ■

ASK DR. D



Q: Who has been your toughest opponent in the ring? *Joel Nelson, Dallas, TX*

Bruiser Brody.

Q: Who do you think is the best lady wrestler in the sport? *Linda Mills, Butte, MT*

Wendi Richter

Q: Who do you think are the toughest wrestlers in Pro-Wrestling today? Could you give me at least five names? *Kenny James, Caro, IL*

1. Dr. D. David Shultz; 2. Bruiser Brody; 3. Randy Savage; 4. Blackjack Mulligan; 5. Wahoo McDaniel.

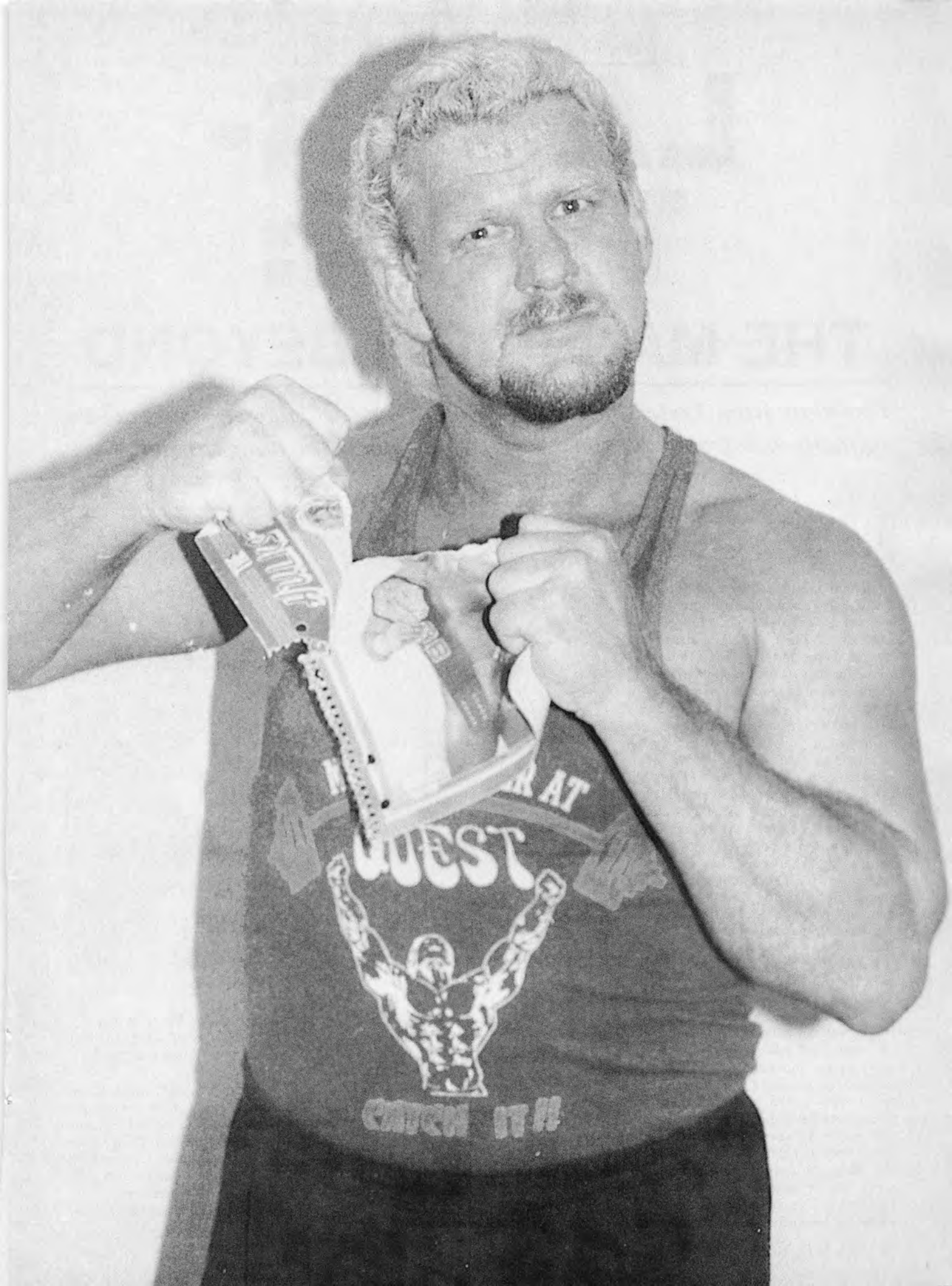
Q: Dr. D., I am 32 years old, I weigh 290 lbs. and I am 5 foot 8 inches tall. I have been a fan for a long time and would like to break into professional wrestling. Can you help me? *Big Al, Portland, ME*

No! I can't help you because you are too fat and out of shape. Stay home, remain a fan and keep sitting around swilling beer. You are not alone in your problem; there are thousands of people sitting around wishing to be something they will never be.

Q: Of all the wrestling promoters in pro wrestling, which one do you think has the most knowledge of the sport? *Tommy Lee, Norfolk, VA*

Verne Gagne of the AWA in my opinion has the best knowledge of the sport, because of the time he has spent in the ring.

Send your questions to:
Ask Dr. D, P.O. Box 3965, New Haven, CT 06525
David is also available for personal appearances, you can reach him at:
(203) 795-1001.


QUEST

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

LASER-TRON: THE MAN FROM BEYOND

The man from Outer Space has landed. In fact nobody's sure where exactly he's from, but one thing is for sure. . .the man can wrestle.

By STEVE PFEFFER

In a wrestling world filled with Snakes, Dragons, Futuristic Beastie Boys and Clones (327 and 328) it's not surprising to find an occasional spaceman in the ranks. Laser-Tron hit Earth a short while ago and immediately took control of the Junior Heavyweight Division of the NWA. The man from beyond comes into the ring to futuristic music that has turned into his anthem and captured the imagination of millions of spectators. It's not all looks with his unorthodox ring attire: he can back up his claim that he's one of the most interesting wrestlers to come along in a long time.

Not much is known about Tron, but not much is needed to be known. He lets his talking be done in the ring while his opponents get stunned by his high flying style. In fact it's not even known if he speaks English because he never does interviews. Jim Crockett has to be commended for allowing the masked man to compete in the NWA. He has proved he can stand up to the best the organization has to offer.

Jimmy, the "Boogie Woogie Man", has to be the closest person to Laser as of late. They have formed a formidable tag team that has left others wondering if this might turn out to be a full scale invasion. "Brother, I tell you right now there's no more to say about the Laser than what you've seen in the ring. There's no way he's ever gonna lose that World Championship of his. Trust me on that: this is the Boogie man talking. We're going after that slimeball Cornett's team, the Midnight Express, and they better watch out because we want those belts they have. The US Championship will either be ours or bugsy and I will take it."

Laser delivers a blow to the mid-section of Thunderfoot.

Laser-Tron is a loner, and being teamed up with the Boogie Man slows him down. Not to say valiant isn't a good grappler. The guy has held many championships in his years on the circuit. But Laser-Tron has to find himself a partner with enough speed and high flying abilities to beat the Express.

"Don't make me laugh," was Jim Cornett's comment on Tron. "The man has been around for almost a year; he's still a rookie. So what if he captures the World Junior Championship? What about Denny Brown? He held that title for a record amount of time, and look where he is now. Mopping floors in arenas."

Many people feel that when Laser-Tron is finally put to the test, say against somebody like Ric Flair, he will fold and not be able to hold his own. What he has to do now is relinquish the championship and prove his mantle in the Heavyweight Division. If he does that, then all these so-called critics will be silenced once and for all. ■

Photo by Cathy Dixson and Color by Steve Pfeffer

JUNIOR
WRESTLING CHAMPION

VIDEO REVIEWS

Professional No-Holds-Barred Look at Today's Video Market

BEST OF THE WWF VOL. 6
Coliseum Viedo: $59.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: A-
Hulk Hogan is the big attraction here. Even though his wrestling skills are questioned, he's a great performer for video. His match with Muraco in a steel cage is a treat and by far the best on the tape.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: B
Nothing interesting in this respect, except for an interview with the ever popular Jesse Ventura.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): A
Strictly a grade A production, as always with Coliseum.

TOTAL GRADE: A-
Usually the Hulkster can't stand on his own as far as wrestling goes. But the action is fast and furious, proving once again hype wins out over skill.

ANDRE THE GIANT
Coliseum Video: $59.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: C
Boring! That's one way to put it. The lumbering giant, near the end of a once fantastic career, is sad to watch. His matches against Kamala and Ken Patera are predictable. But for those who haven't seen him in his prime, there's a good "old time" match against three opponents.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: C
Even slower moving than his ring action are his interviews. His gurgled English is hard to understand and falls to pieces.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): B+
This is one video tape that needs to be cut.

TOTAL GRADE: C+
One of the things Coliseum needs to present is an old match with Andre vs. the Blond Giant, namely the Hulkster. Keep that in mind for the future, guys.

WWF GREATEST MATCHES
Coliseum Video: $19.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: A
The night the Iron Shiek beat Bob Backlund for the Championship was much appreciated, as was Hogan's taking on Orndorff, and Savage going after Santana. We could have done without those Hillbillies vs. The Dream Team though. It's an insult to the former tag-team champions to even step into the ring with them.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: B
Interviews would have been nice. Comments from some of the wrestlers would have also been fine; Bob Backlund would have been an interesting choice. The man was one of the greatest ever to hold a belt. But comments from him on Hulk might have been too controversial.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): B
Well done as far as the tape goes. Not too many cuts, and that's good.

TOTAL GRADE: B+
For the price this is a fine investment and a great addition to yor video library.

WRESTLING'S GREATEST VILLAINS
THE GOLDEN ERA
Goodtimes Video: $12.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: A
All the famous (or should I say infamous) wrestlers are here from 50's and 60's TV. Gorgeous George, the man who started it all, and Fritz Von Erich, Johnny Valentine, Eddie Graham, Fred Blassie, the Kangaroos, Lou Albano. And even Nikolai Volkoff.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: A
Interviews and more are taken directly from television. Listening to some of these all-time greats, you get to know where the grapplers of today get their raps.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): B
The video is uncut and the action is direct from the TV broadcasts. Although the tape quality leaves much to be desired, it doesn't interfere with the matches. All the footage is in black and white.

TOTAL GRADE: A-
A must for fans of all ages who want to see the all-time greats in action. Adults can reminisce about their childhoods, while children can see it all for the first time. The beginning of our great sport.

WRESTLING'S GREATEST HEROES
THE GOLDEN ERA
Goodtimes Video: $12.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: A
Like its companion tape, this one features the greats of the sport. Antonino Rocca, Lou Thez, Edouard Carpentier, Bruno Sammartino, Verne Gagne and Sam Steamboat (Ric's father). Great wrestling action!

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: B
The interviews are good—not as good as the Villian's but very interesting.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): B
Uncut video action directly from television so everything is intact. But the quality of the video tape isn't so great.

TOTAL GRADE: B+
No doubt your parents have told you "When we were kids we had great stars, much better than all the garbage going on today." Well, now's your chance to judge for yourself.

LORDS OF THE RING
TV Sports Video: $59.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: A
Some of the most important events in the mat world are on this tape. Kerry Von Erich beating Flair for the championship, Ric beating Kerry to regain his title in Japan, the Von Erichs vs. the Freebirds, Piper and Valentine in a fantastic dog-collar match, etc..

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: B
Average. Gordon Solie is interesting, and his comments show an unparalleled knowledge of the sport of wrestling.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): C
There are no complete matches on this presentation. It's more like a wrestling special on television. The tape quality is good and should be commended, but not a single match is shown in its entirety.

TOTAL GRADE: B
Good content, good production but the format takes away form the overall grade. Many fans will finish the tape feeling cheated. Instead of clips of the action, next time try and get in at least one full match

Photos by Steve Pfeffer, John Barrett and Robert Riddick

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

Photo by Bob Bonner

Blanchard and Arn Anderson have been giving the Rock n' Roll Express some tough battles.

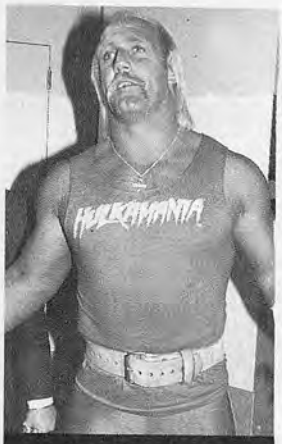
WRESTLING'S TOP TWENTY

1. **Ric Flair,** NWA World Champion
2. **Hulk Hogan,** WWF World Champion
3. **Lex Luger,** NWA US Champion
4. **Steve Williams,** UWF World Champion
5. **Barry Windham,** Western States Champion
6. **The Honky Tonk Man,** WWF Intercontinental Champion
7. **Kevin Von Erich,** World Class Champion
8. **Nikita Koloff,** NWA TV Champion
9. **Curt Hennig,** AWA World Champion
10. **Ron Garvin** No. 1 contender for NWA title
11. **Terry Taylor,** UWF TV Champion
12. **One Man Gang,** No. 1 contender WWF title
13. **Dusty Rhodes,** No. 1 contender US title
14. **Ricky Steamboat,** No. 1 contender WWF IC title
15. **Mike Rotunda,** Florida Champion
16. **Jerry Lawler,** Southern Champion
17. **Sensational Sherri,** World Women's Champion
18. **Randy Savage,** No. 2 contender WWF IC title
19. **Victor Rivera,** ACCW California Champion
20. **The Amazing Rocca,** IWA Champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **The Hart Foundation,** WWF World Champions
2. **The Rock N' Roll Express,** NWA World Champions
3. **Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner,** UWF Champions
4. **The Road Warriors,** Japan International Champions
5. **The Midnight Express,** NWA US Champions
6. **DJ Peterson and JT Southern,** No. 1 contenders AWA title
7. **Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson,** No. 1 contenders NWA title
8. **Mike Graham and Steve Keirn,** Florida Champions
9. **Tony Atlas and Sweet Brown Sugar,** Texas Champions
10. **Strike Force,** No. 1 contenders WWF title

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS



Hulk Hogan

Ric Flair

Curt Hennig

WWF

World Champion: Hulk Hogan

1. The Honky Tonk Man
2. Rick Steamboat
3. Randy Savage
4. One Man Gang
5. Andre the Giant
6. Jake Roberts
7. Paul Orndorff
8. Rick Rude
9. Hercules Hernandez
10. Bam Bam Bigelow

NWA

World Champion: Ric Flair

1. Lex Luger
2. Ron Garvin
3. Dusty Rhodes
4. Nikita Koloff
5. Barry Windham
6. Ricky Morton
7. Robert Gibson
8. Jimmy Garvin
9. Ivan Koloff
10. Tully Blanchard

AWA

World Champion: Curt Hennig

1. Larry Zbyszko
2. Adrian Adonis
3. Jerry Lawler
4. DJ Peterson
5. JT Southern
6. Wahoo McDaniel
7. Tommy Rich
8. Kevin Kelly
9. Greg Gagne
10. Brickhouse Brown

UWF

World Champion: Steve Williams

1. Barry Windham
2. Terry Taylor
3. Big Bubba
4. Dick Murdock
5. Chris Adams
6. Dusty Rhodes
7. Eddie Gilbert
8. Sting
9. Rick Steiner
10. Ivan Koloff

Steve Williams

Kevin Von Erich

Lex Lugar

WORLD CLASS

1. Kevin Von Erich
2. Al Perez
3. Brian Adias
4. Steve Simpson
5. Tony Atlas
6. Bruiser Brody
7. Shawn Simpson
8. Al Madril
9. Matt Borne
10. Ted Arcidi

FLORIDA

1. Mike Rotunda
2. Dory Funk
3. Kevin Sullivan
4. Blackjack Mulligan
5. Terry Funk
6. Tahitian Prince
7. Mike Graham
8. Ed Gantner
9. Konga the Barbarian
10. Shaska Whatley

MOST HATED

1. Ric Flair
2. The Honky Tonk Man
3. Ted Dibiase
4. Lex Luger
5. Andre the Giant
6. Abdullah the Butcher
7. Tully Blanchard
8. Dick Murdock
9. Nikolai Volkoff
10. Curt Hennig

MOST POPULAR

1. Hulk Hogan
2. Randy Savage
3. Dusty Rhodes
4. Nikita Koloff
5. Rick Steamboat
6. Jimmy Garvin
7. Ron Garvin
8. Ricky Morton
9. Robert Gibson
10. The Road Warriors

THE LAST PAGE

The final word this month from Wrestling's MAIN EVENT!

The Big news this Month is in the AWA. Former AWA kingpin Nick Bockwinkle has been seriously hurt in a match against Champion Curt Hennig. Near the end of the match it looked as if Nick would regain his coveted World title for the umpteenth time, but as with all of their matches Larry Zbyszko jumped into the ring and attacked the challenger, this time with his nunchucks. Bockwinkle took such a beating that night that he was immediately rushed to the hospital for x-rays. Now, with his back severly hurt his career is in question. "Maybe it's time to call it quits, over the years a body can take only so much punishment. I've already solidified my place in wrestling history as the greatest champion the world has ever seen." was a weary Bockwinkle's comments. Meanwhile Zbyszko is gloating over his victory, "The old man just couldn't take it. They don't call me the living legend for nothing."...

Photo by David Carlsen

Hacksaw Jim Duggan is back in the WWF and the fans are really getting on his case.

Ron Garvin and Barry Windham have stopped teaming together for a while so Ronnie can concentrate his efforts to dethrone Champ Ric Flair. Barry Windham is now teaming exclusively with his brother Kendall, going fast and furious after US Champions the Midnight Express...

Jim Cornette has made an official challenge to Nikita Koloff for his TV Championship, saying that either Sweet Stan or Beautiful Bobby will be the next champ. As far as that goes, we here at Main Event feel that the Express should stick to tag-teaming and leave the singles department to wrestlers without Championship belts...

"Mr. Magnificent" Kevin Kelly has recovered rather quickly from the loss of Sheri Martell to the WWF. He has now been joined by Meddussa Mechelli, a former contender for Sheri's AWA belt, and now the manageress of the big man. Meddussa comes to ringside in splended outfits that show off her incredible body, remenicent of a certain WWF manageress named Elizabeth. The only difference is that Meddussa isn't afraid to get involved in matches to save her man...

Nick Kiniski has turned over a new leaf, teaming with "Mr. Magnificent". He made his transaction during a match up of Kelly and Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, attacking Rich and saving Kelly's hide...

Hacksaw Jim Duggan is back! Back in the WWF now that his suspension has been lifted. The fans have been hassaling him non stop in all of his recent matches, calling him "druggie" or yelling out "Who is your dealer!". Duggan is a man with little patience, especially with the fans. Don't be surprized that if the criticism heats up that the former UWF star turns his back on everybody that has supported him in the WWF.

STEVE PFEFFER

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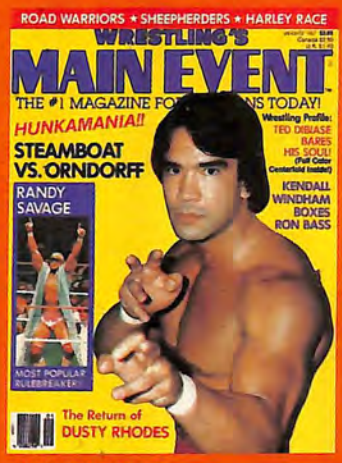

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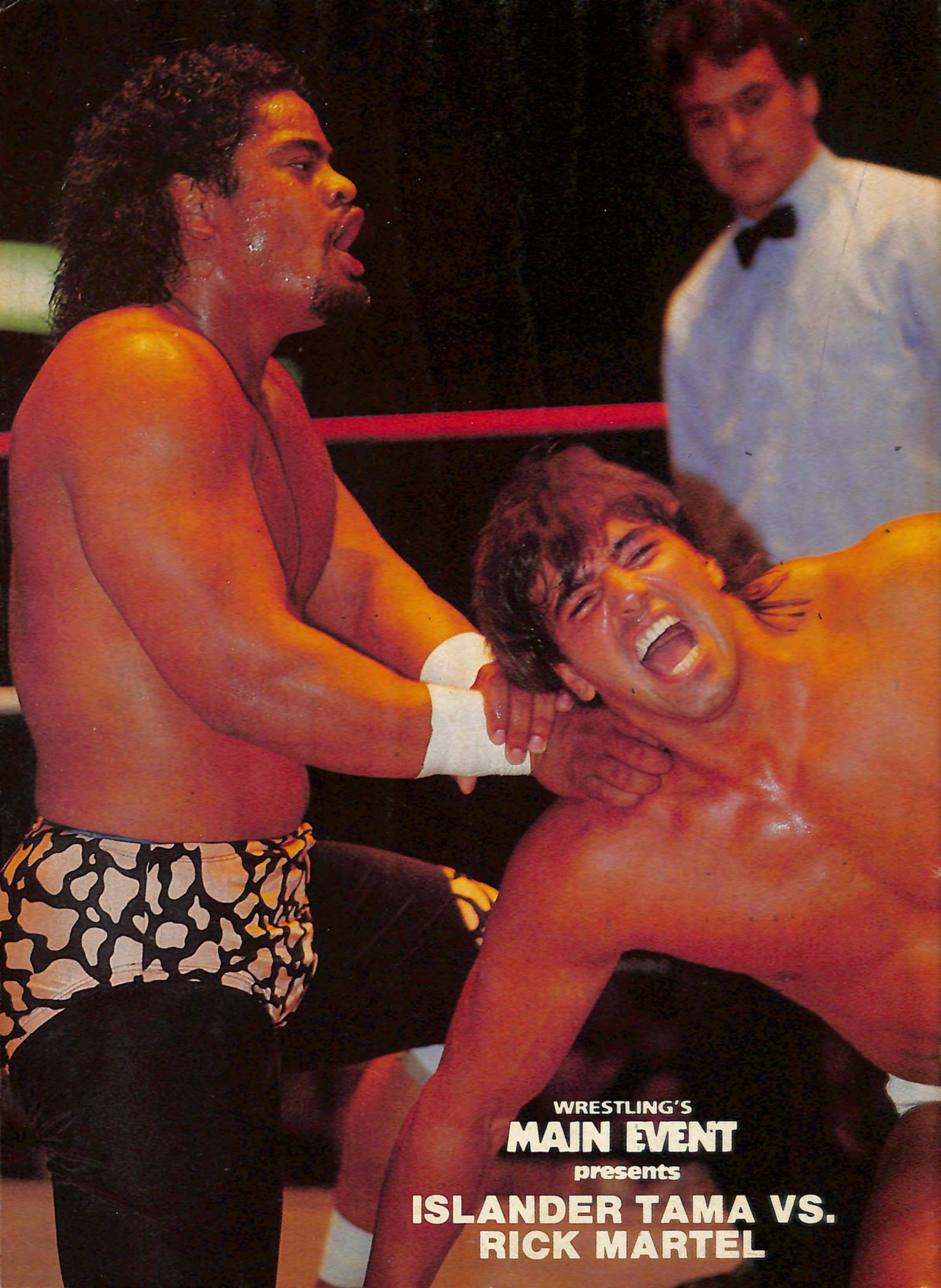
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